Vol.25

ROKUDA NOBORU

F
VOL.25

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VOL. 25

THE ISLAND OF SUFFERING

F

VOL.25
THE ISLAND OF SUFFERING

Chapter 1: The Path to God
Chapter 2: The Promise
Chapter 3: The World's Best
Chapter 4: Left Behind
Chapter 5: The Final Decision
Chapter 6: Resistance
Chapter 7: Out of Control
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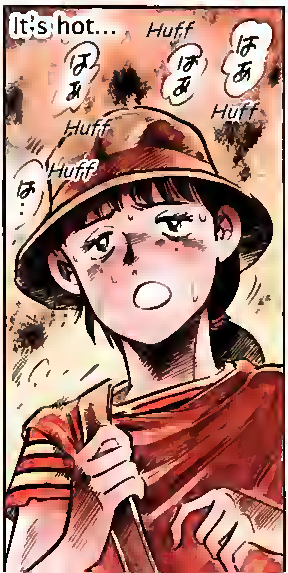
Chapter 9: The Island of Suffering
Chapter 10: The Jungle
Chapter 11: Into the Mountains
Chapter 12: One Step Closer

Chapter 1:
The Path to God

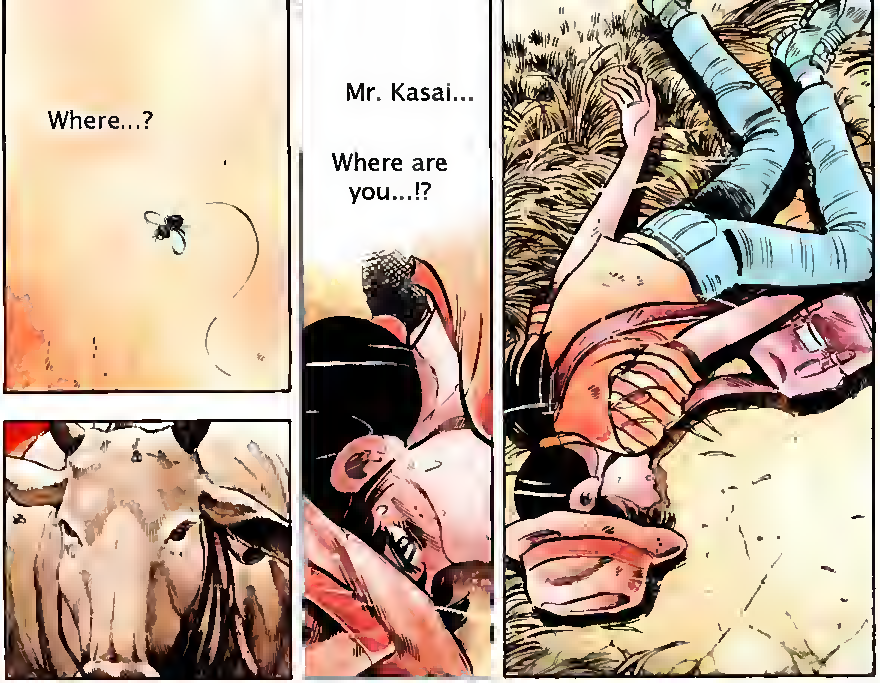
The people have lost hope.
The children are starving.

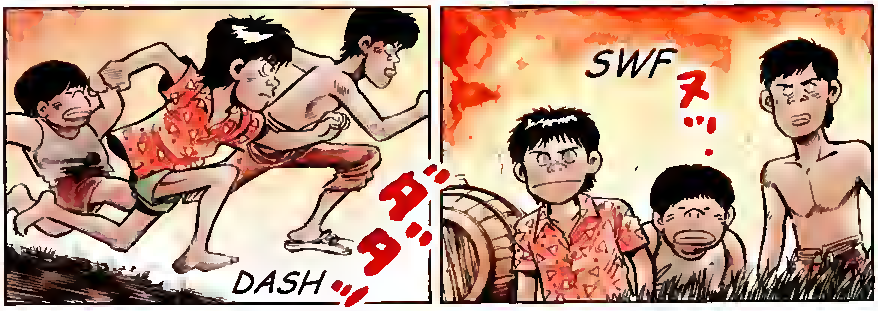

It's hot...
Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff

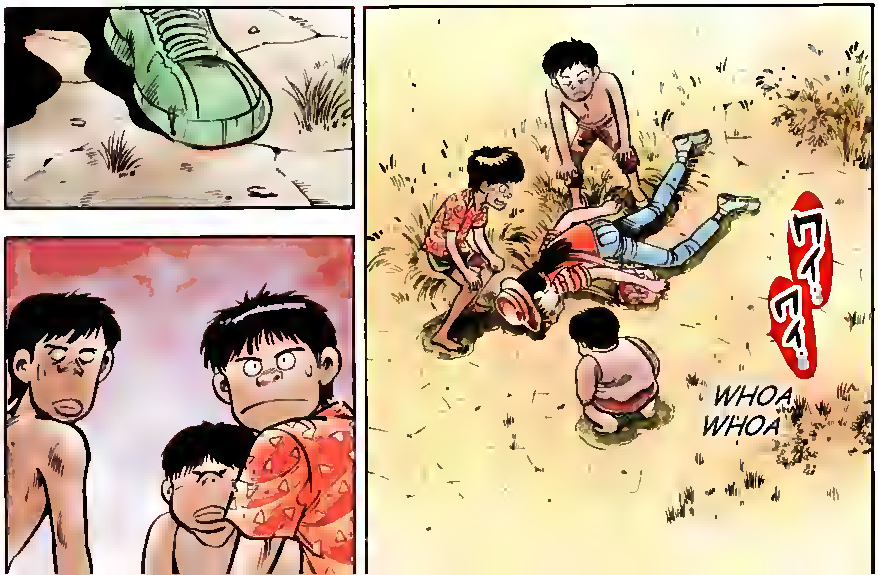
Where am I?
It's hot.
Where is this place?

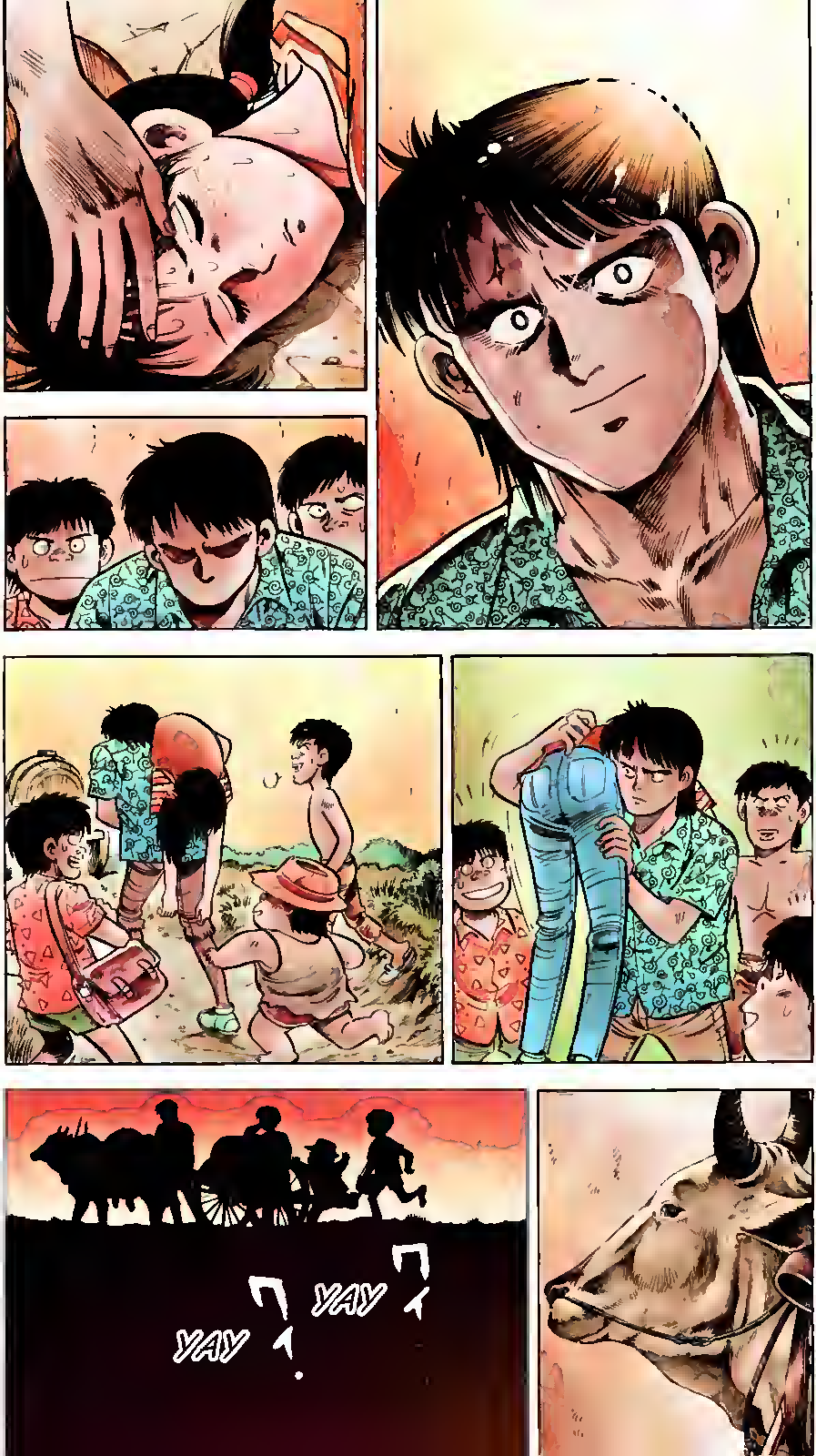
Chapter 1 :
The Path to God

Chapter 1:
The Path to God

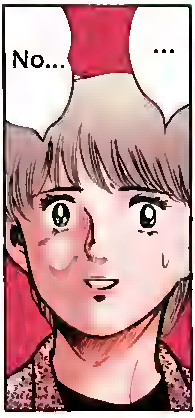

Where...?
Mr. Kasai...
Where are you...!?


DASH
SWF

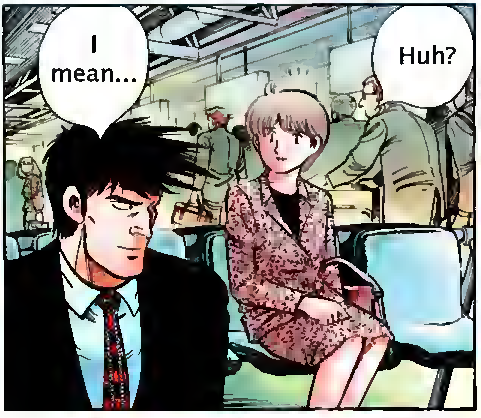

WHOA
WHOA

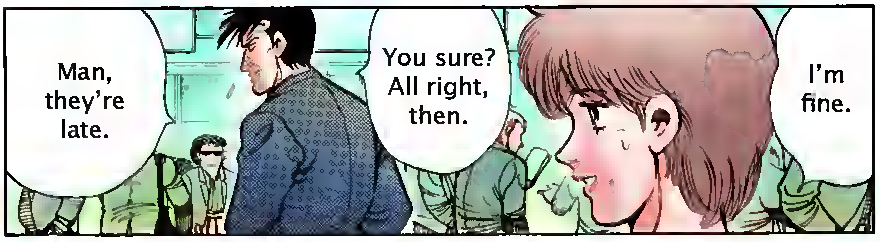

YAY
YAY
YAY

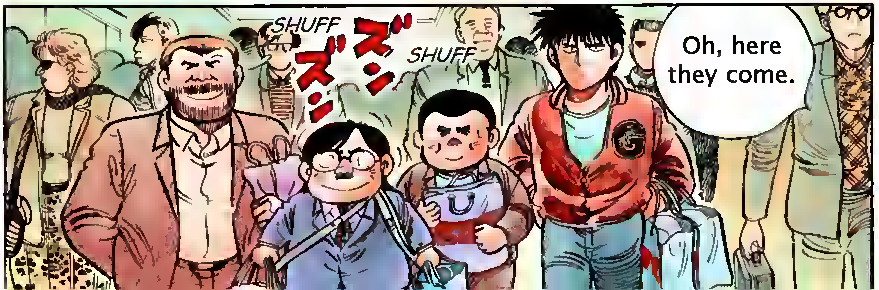
Heathrow Airport, London
BRITISH AIRWAYS
Have you been to a hospital...?

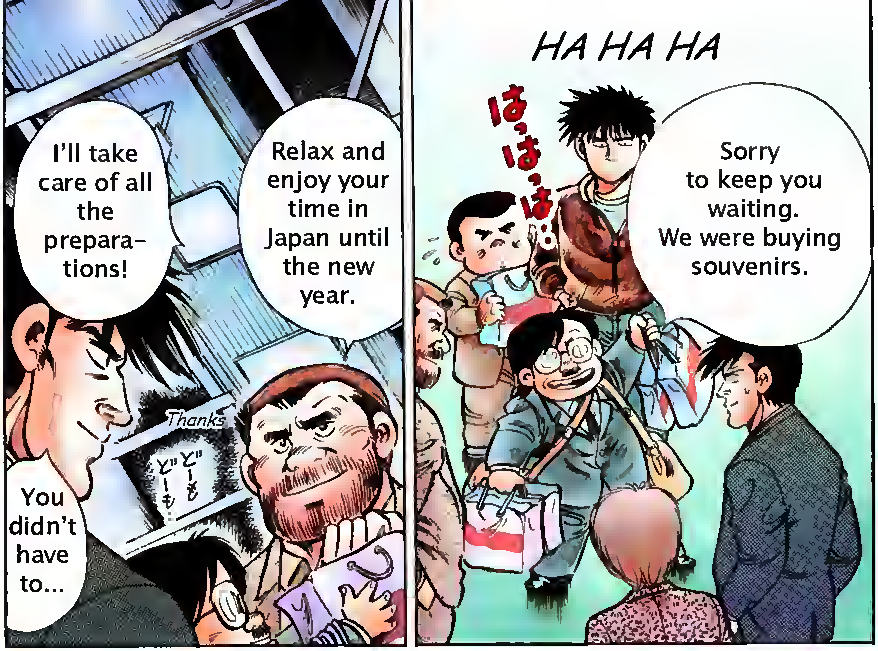

No...
...

You don't seem to be in the best of health.

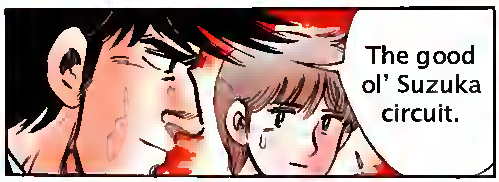

I mean...
Huh?

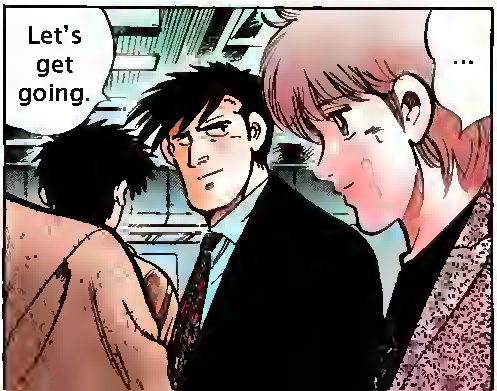

Man, they're late.
You sure? All right, then.
I'm fine.

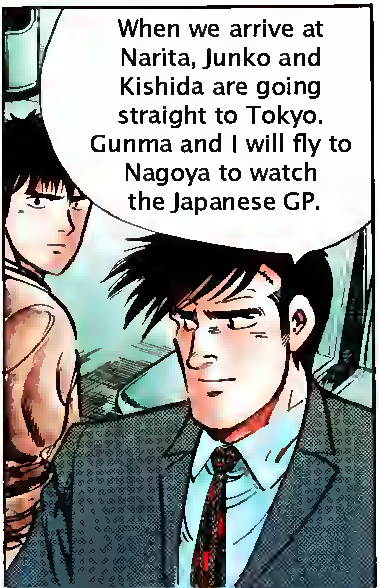

SHUFF
ズン
ズン
SHUFF
Oh, here they come.


I'll take care of all the prepara-tions!
Relax and enjoy your time in Japan until the new year.
Thanks
You didn't have to...
HA HA HA
はっはっは
Sorry to keep you waiting. We were buying souvenirs.

Lookin' forward to it, dude.
When the new year starts, you're gonna be drivin' your new ride around the clock, Gunma.
I'll finish up the car before the end of the year. Then I'll head back for a bit, too.

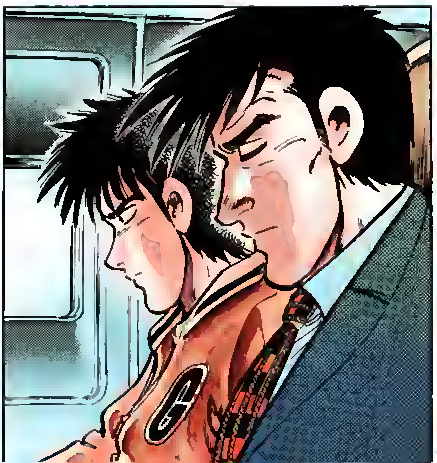

The good ol' Suzuka circuit.

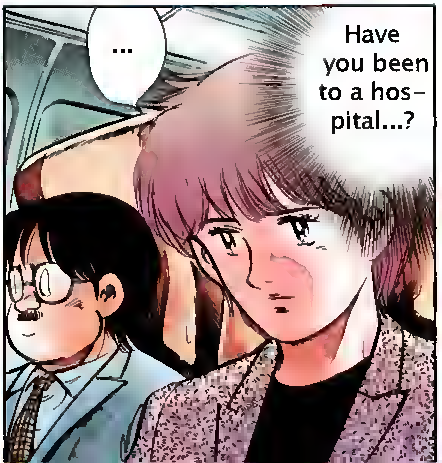

Let's get going.
...

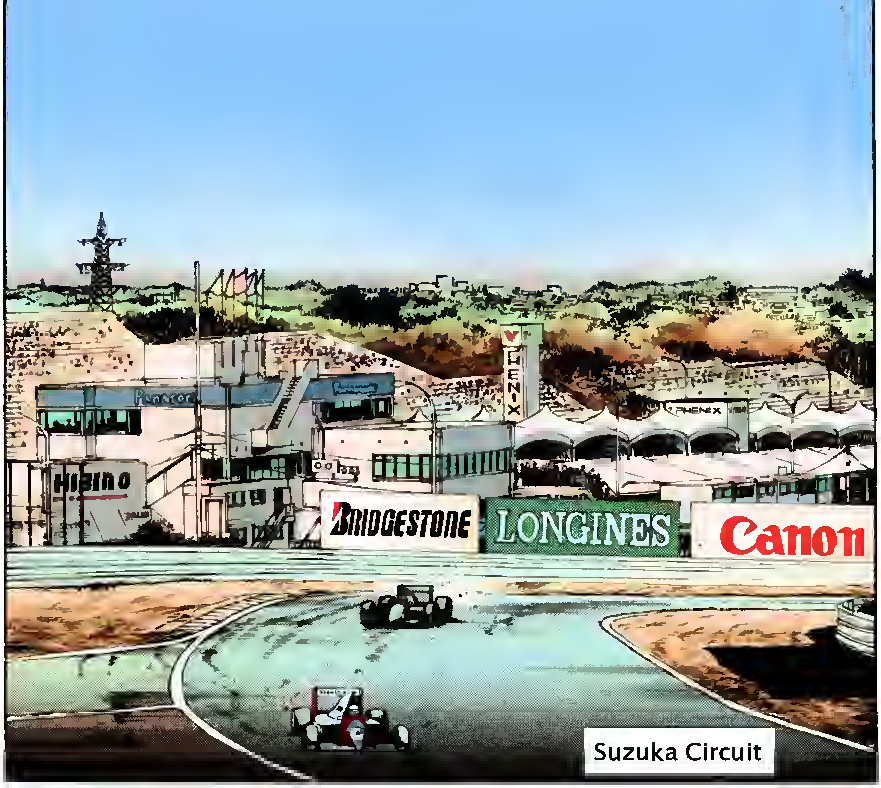

When we arrive at Narita, Junko and Kishida are going straight to Tokyo. Gunma and I will fly to Nagoya to watch the Japanese GP.

...
You sure you can pull it off!?
Ta-motsu ...
I ain't about to hand you over to another team!
Gunma... You're my biggest asset.
...
ゴォ——‥
FROOAR
VEEERN

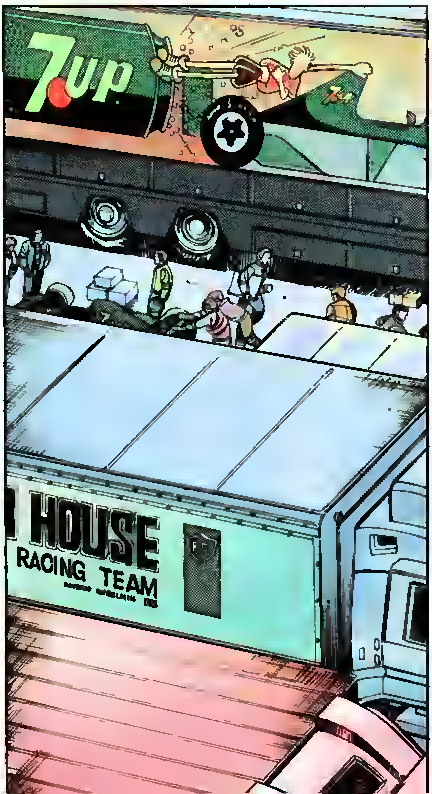
VRRRRN

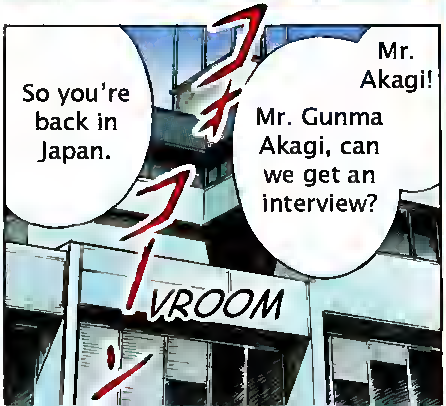


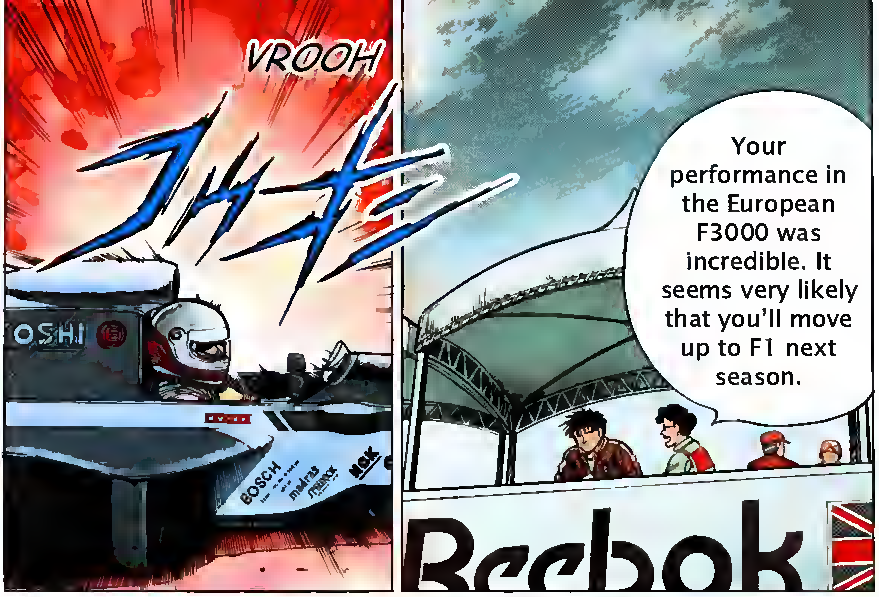

...
Have you been to a hos-pital...?

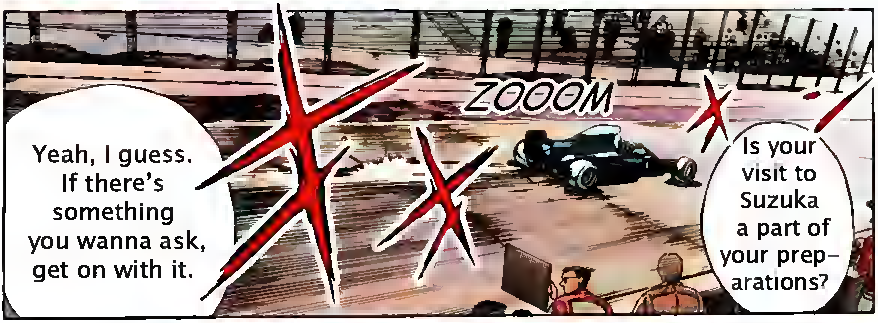

PHENIX
Hibino
BRIDGESTONE
LONGINES
Canon
Suzuka Circuit

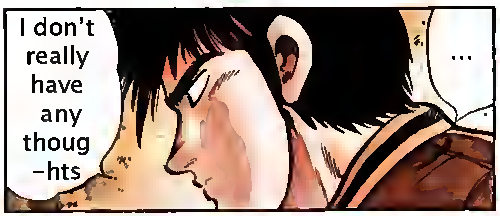
YAK
YAK
YAK

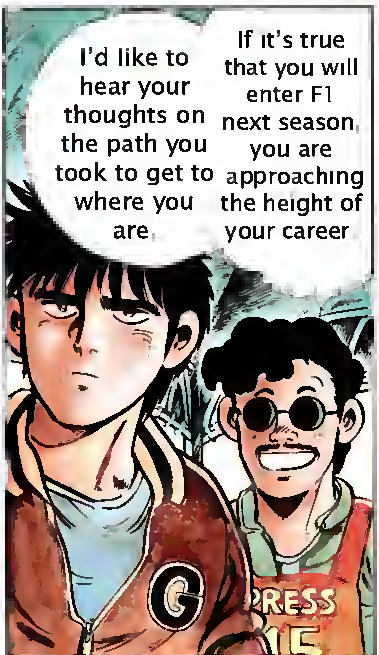

7UP
HOUSE
RACING TEAM

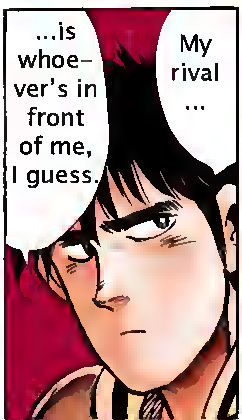

So you're back in Japan.
Mr. Akagi!
Mr. Gunma Akagi, can we get an interview?
VROOM

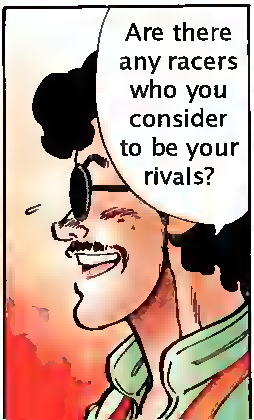

VROOH
Your performance in the European F3000 was incredible. It seems very likely that you'll move up to F1 next season.
Reebok

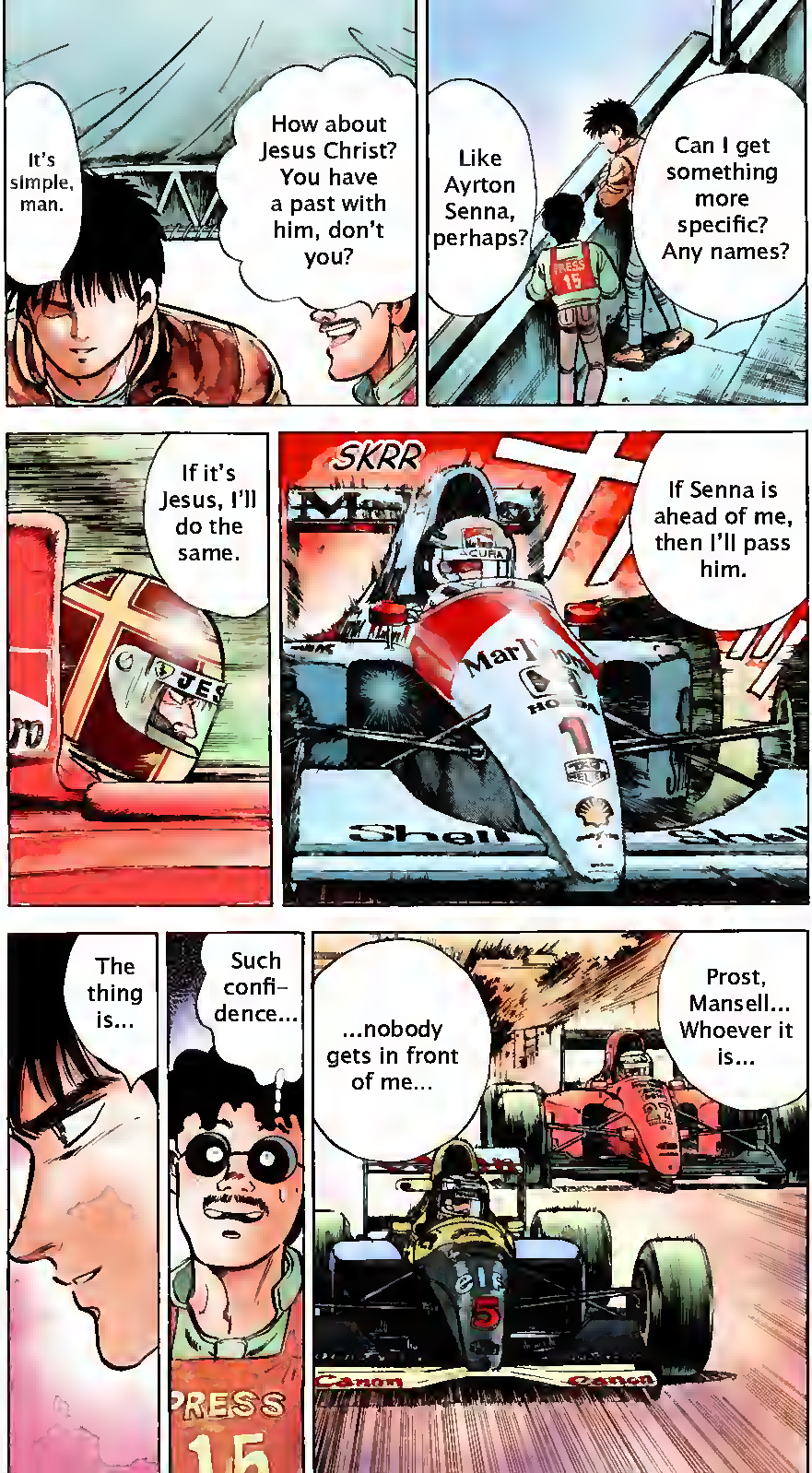

ZOOOM
Yeah, I guess. If there's something you wanna ask, get on with it.
Is your visit to Suzuka a part of your prep-arations?

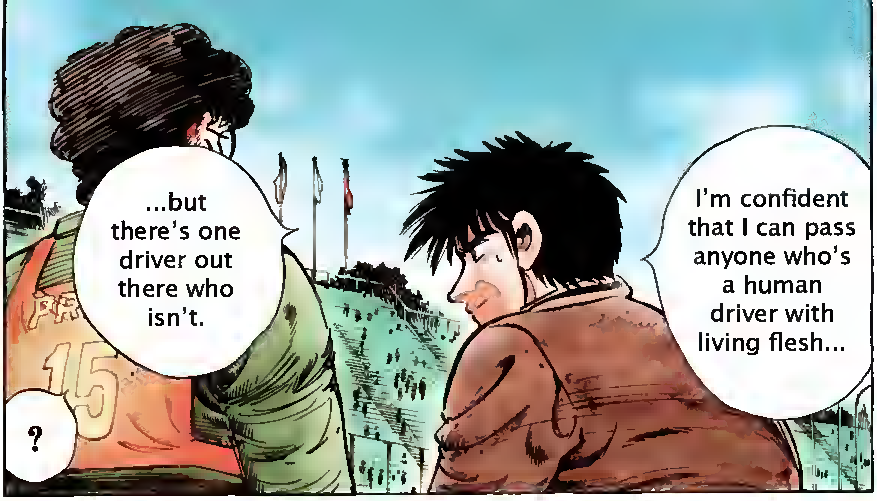

I don't really have any thoug-hts
...

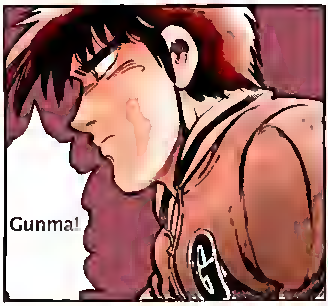

I'd like to hear your thoughts on the path you took to get to where you are
If it's true that you will enter F1 next season, you are approaching the height of your career


...is whoe-ver's in front of me, I guess.
My rival ...

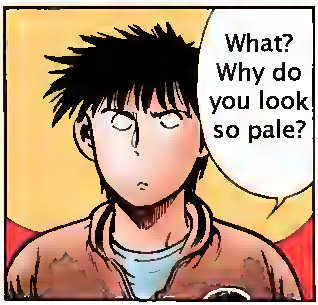

Are there any racers who you consider to be your rivals?

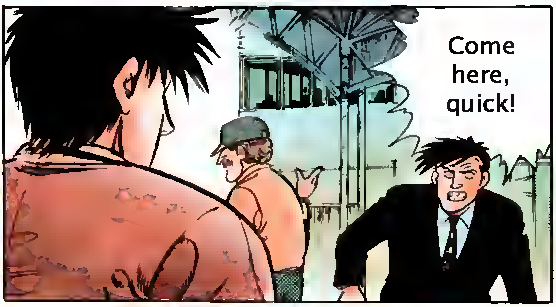

It's simple, man.
How about Jesus Christ? You have a past with him, don't you?
Like Ayrton Senna, perhaps?
Can I get something more specific? Any names?
If it's Jesus, I'll do the same.
SKRR
If Senna is ahead of me, then I'll pass him.
The thing is...
Such confi-dence...
...nobody gets in front of me...
Prost, Mansell... Whoever it is...


...but there's one driver out there who isn't.
I'm confident that I can pass anyone who's a human driver with living flesh...
?


Gunma!

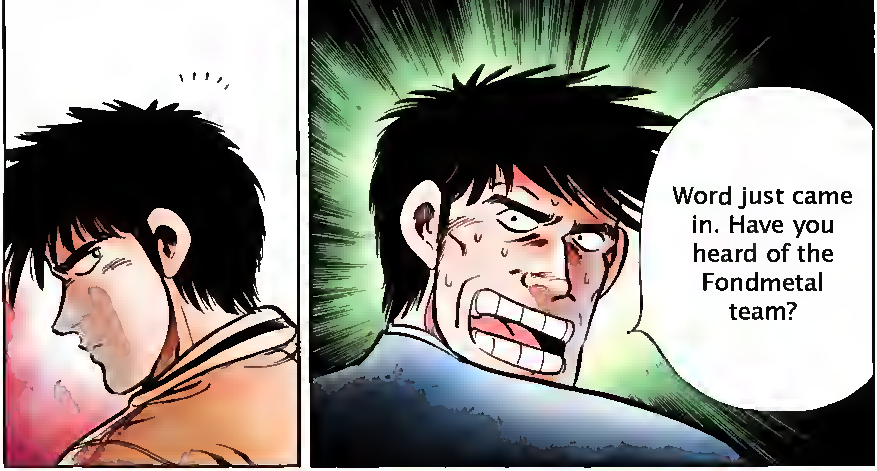
Heh. If I only knew the answer to that...
Uhh... What do you mean by that? Who's this driver?

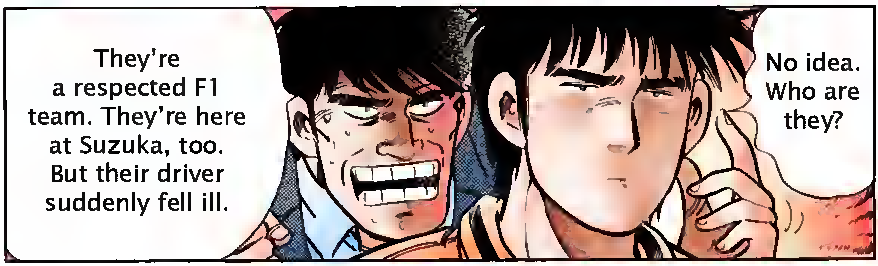

What? Why do you look so pale?

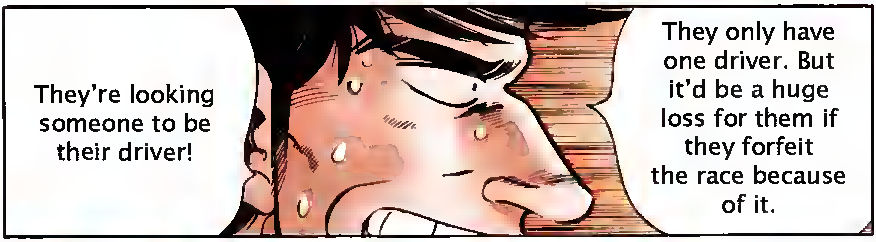

Come here, quick!

There is now!
What's up your ass? There's nothin' else to do around here.

An interview ...
What were you doing?
You think you have time for that?

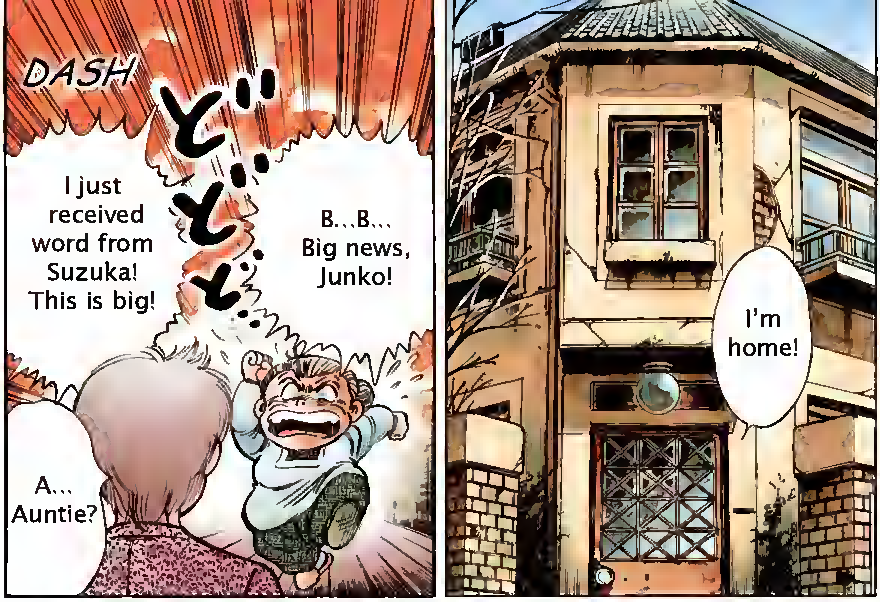

Word just came in. Have you heard of the Fondmetal team?

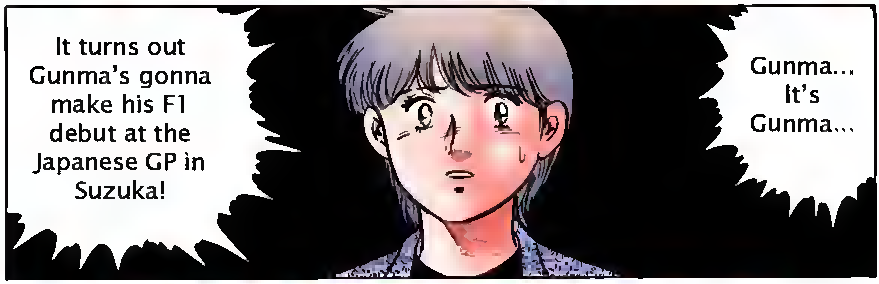

They're a respected F1 team. They're here at Suzuka, too. But their driver suddenly fell ill.
No idea. Who are they?

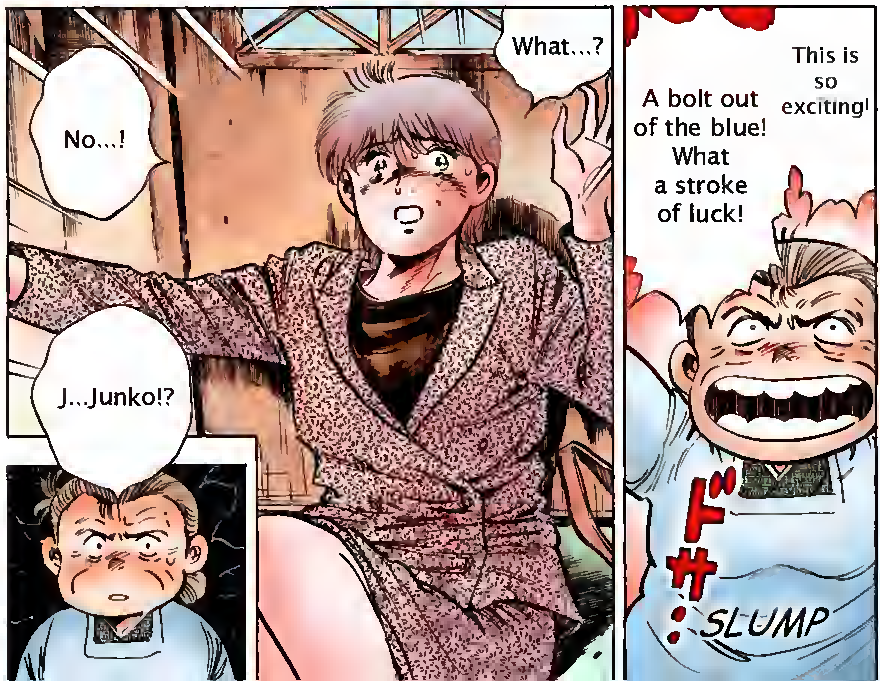

They're looking someone to be their driver!
They only have one driver. But it'd be a huge loss for them if they forfeit the race because of it.

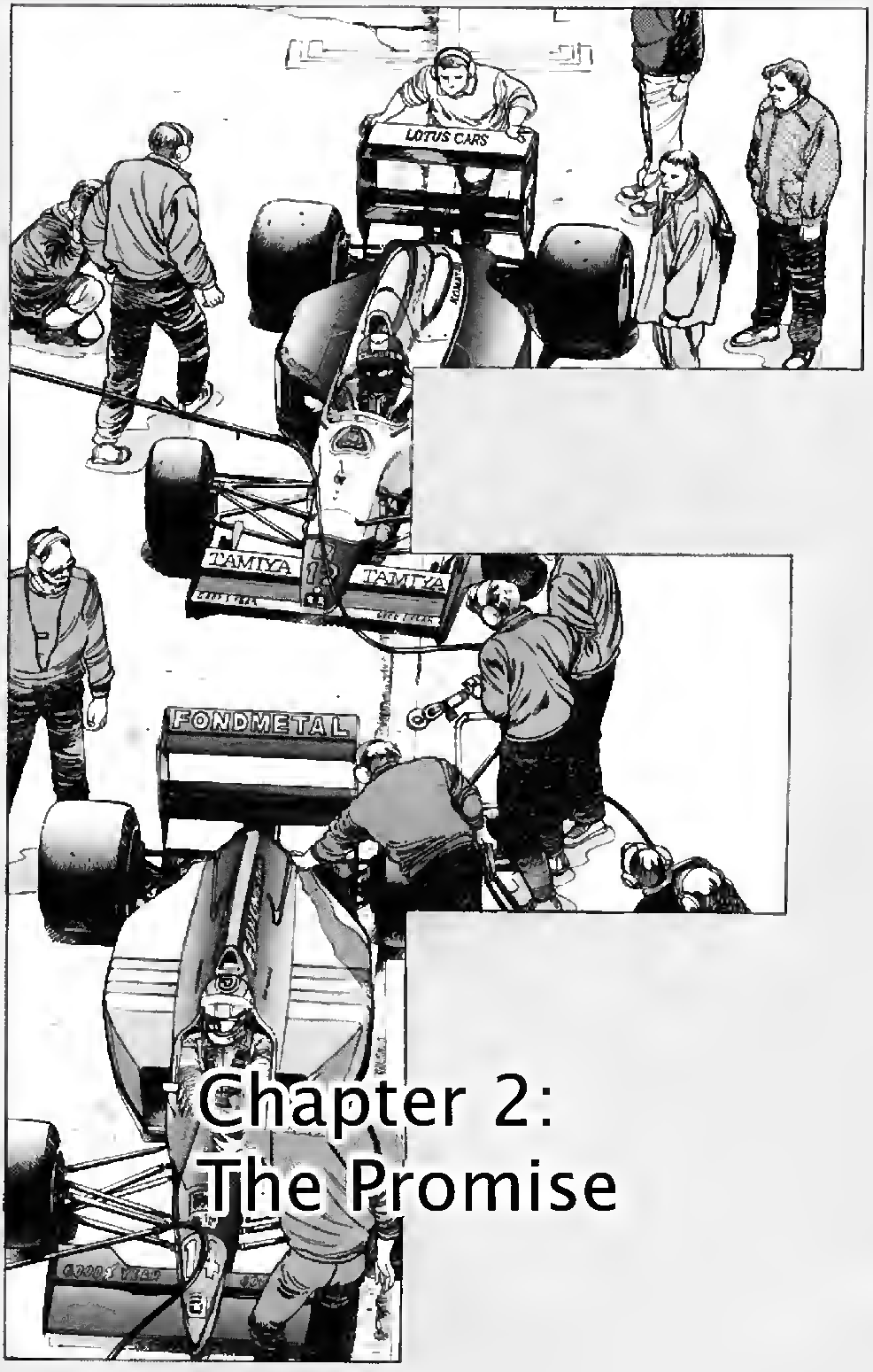
How about it, Gunma? Ready to race in F1?
You wanna be their substitute for the Japanese GP?

M...
me...!?
バン!
SHING
FONDMETAL
GOODYEAR
4


DASH
ど…ど…ど…
I just received word from Suzuka! This is big!
B...B... Big news, Junko!
A... Auntie?
I'm home!


It turns out Gunma's gonna make his F1 debut at the Japanese GP in Suzuka!
Gunma... It's Gunma...

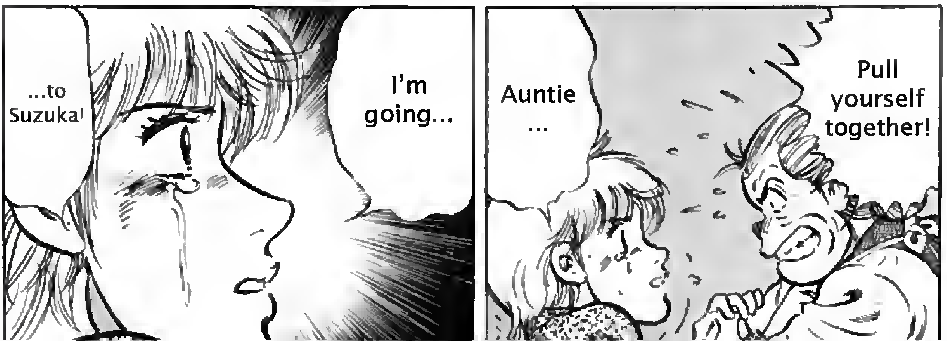

What...?
No...!
J...Junko!?
A bolt out of the blue! What a stroke of luck!
This is so exciting!
ドサ!
SLUMP

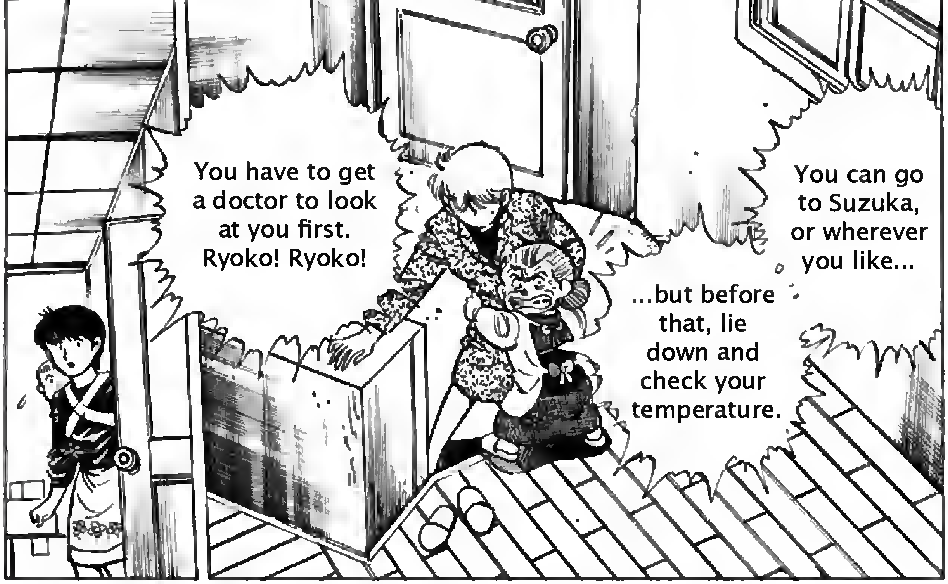


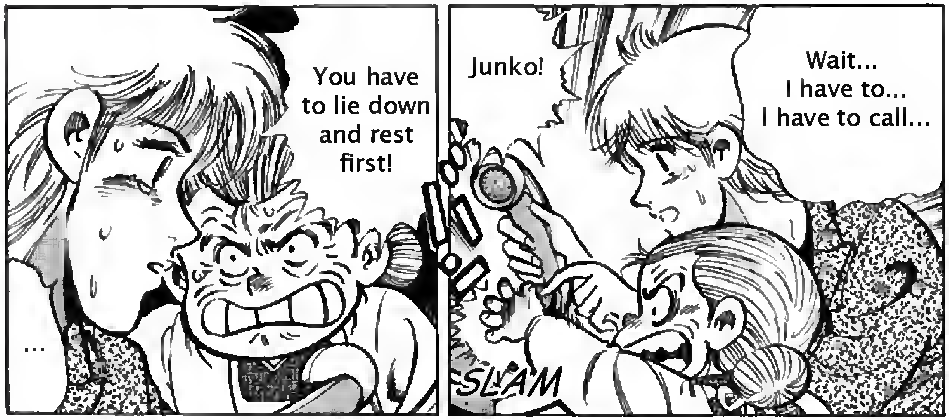
Chapter 2: The Promise

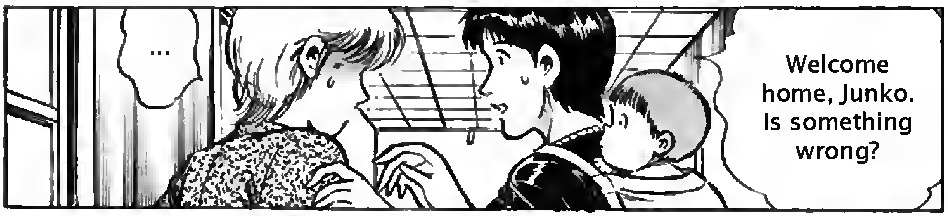
J...Junko...

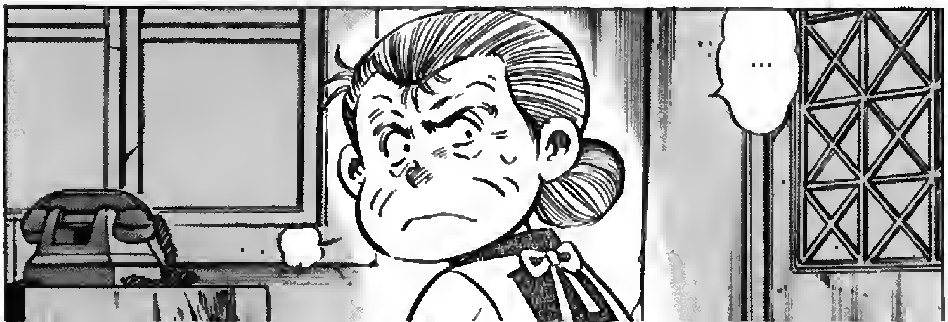
What's wrong with you, Junko? Are you sick?
No one told me anything about it...
That's... That's awful...
I can't believe it...

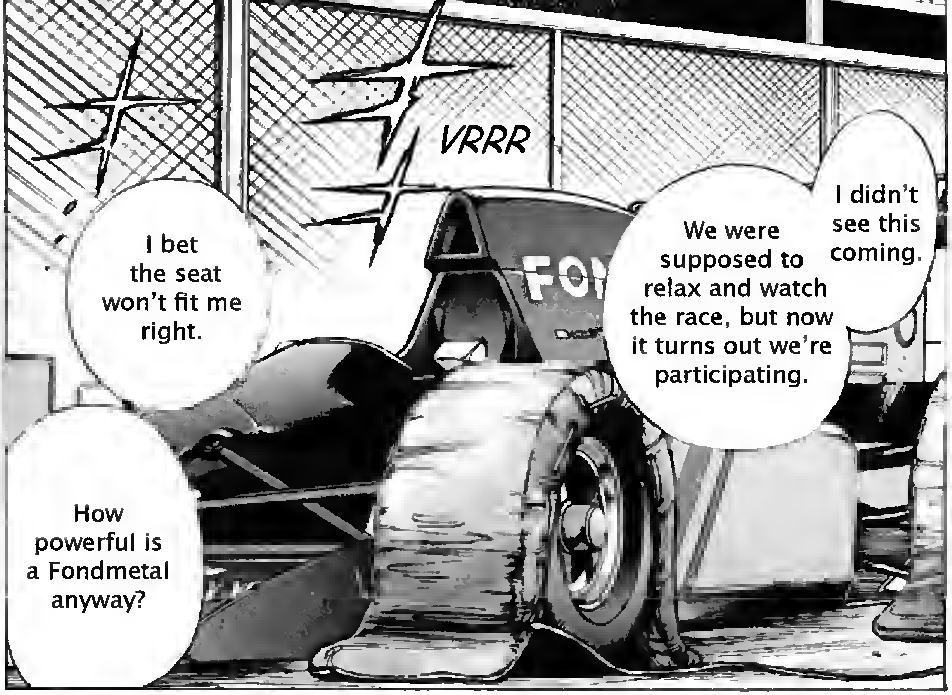

...to Suzuka!
I'm going...
Auntie ...
Pull yourself together!


You have to get a doctor to look at you first. Ryoko! Ryoko!
You can go to Suzuka, or wherever you like...
...but before that, lie down and check your temperature.

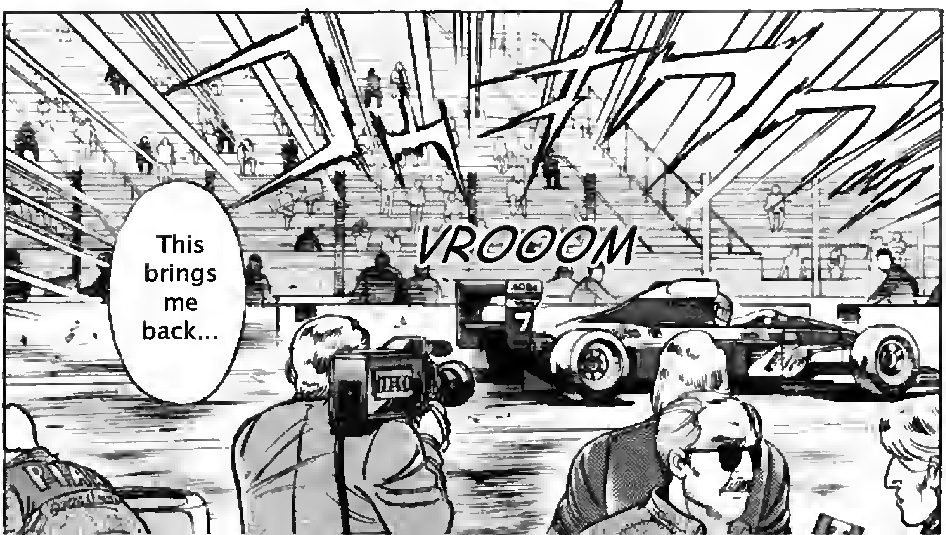

You have to lie down and rest first!
...
Junko!
Wait... I have to... I have to call...
SLAM


...
Welcome home, Junko. Is something wrong?


...


VRRR
I bet the seat won't fit me right.
We were supposed to relax and watch the race, but now it turns out we're participating.
I didn't see this coming.
How powerful is a Fondmetal anyway?

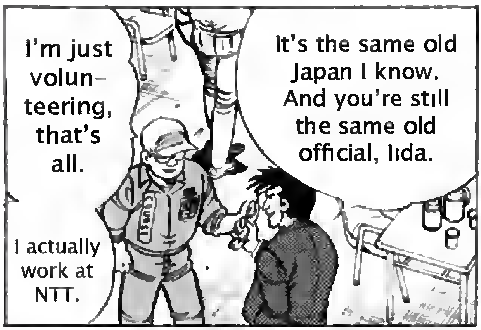
Heh. Is that right?
Get over here and introduce yourself to the team.
The engine is a Cosworth DFR V8. It's basically the same as the Tamotsu special.

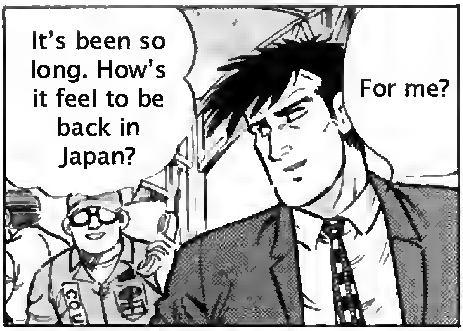

VROOOM
This brings me back...

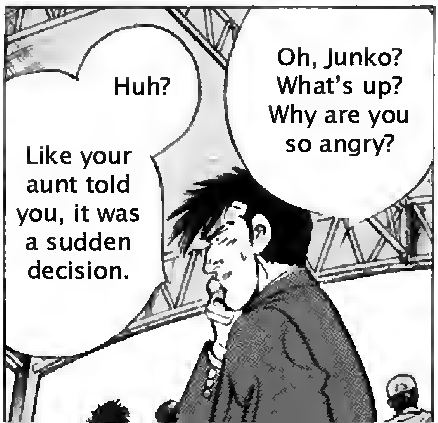
Break a leg!
Now you're in the exact same situation.
I wasn't so nervous about driving an F1 car. Not as much as I was about racing with the world's top drivers.
Three years ago, I also made a sudden debut in F1 as a substitute driver.
A...Aguri Suzuki...
S...Satoru Naka-jima...
I better not see you standing on the podium... Buddy!
EPSON
PAT
...
I'm planning on making a name for myself before I retire.
WHAM
Canon
HA HA HA
CHING
I'm just kidding, you airhead.

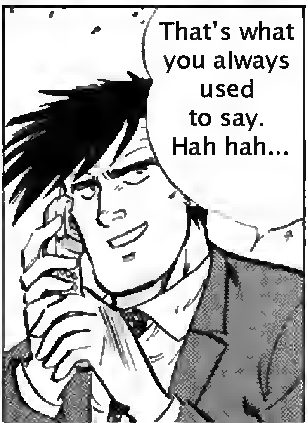
Piqué.
HA HA HA HA HA
M... Mansell!
Senna ...
Labatt's
...
Prost.
ZOOM
Pre-Qualifying Round
CRASSHH
These drawings look nothing like the real guys!
SPLAT

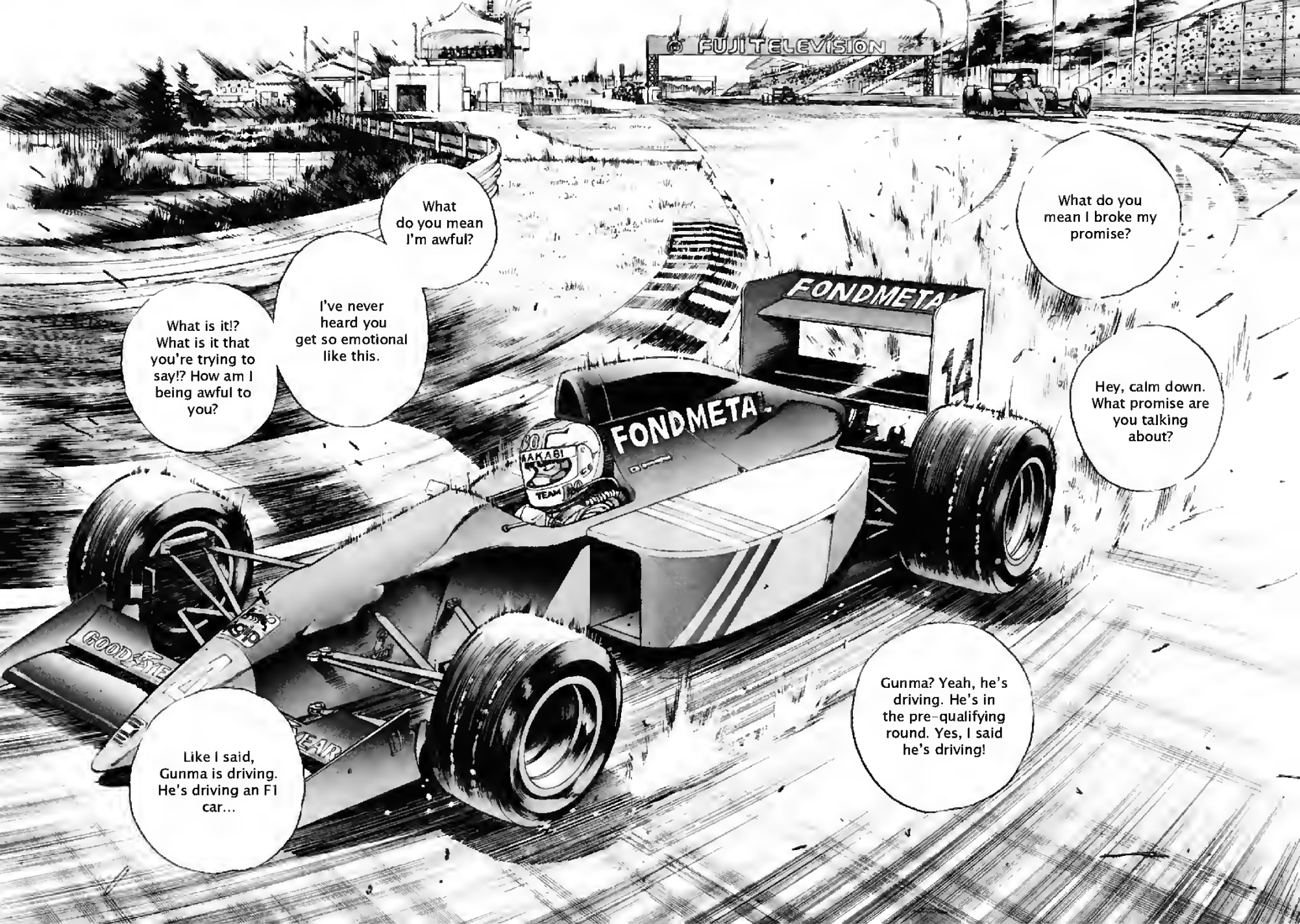
VRRRRRR
A call for you, Mr. Kuroi.
VRROOM

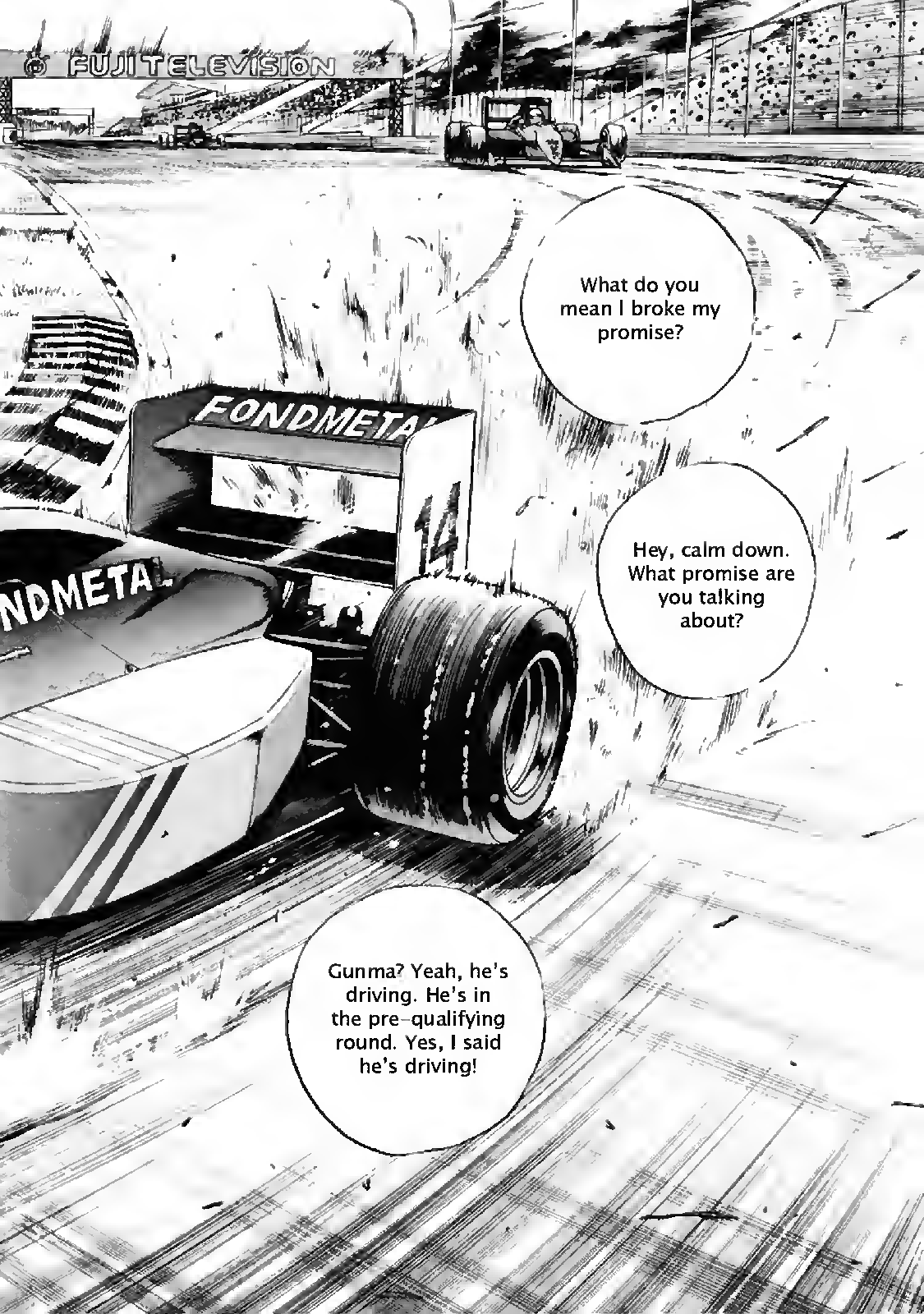

I'm just volun-teering, that's all.
I actually work at NTT.
It's the same old Japan I know. And you're still the same old official, Iida.


It's been so long. How's it feel to be back in Japan?
For me?


Huh?
Like your aunt told you, it was a sudden decision.
Oh, Junko? What's up? Why are you so angry?


That's what you always used to say. Hah hah...


FUJI TELEVISION
What do you mean I broke my promise?
What do you mean I'm awful?
I've never heard you get so emotional like this.
What is it!? What is it that you're trying to say!? How am I being awful to you?
Hey, calm down. What promise are you talking about?
Gunma? Yeah, he's driving. He's in the pre-qualifying round. Yes, I said he's driving!
Like I said, Gunma is driving. He's driving an F1 car...
FONDMETAL
14
AKAGI
TEAM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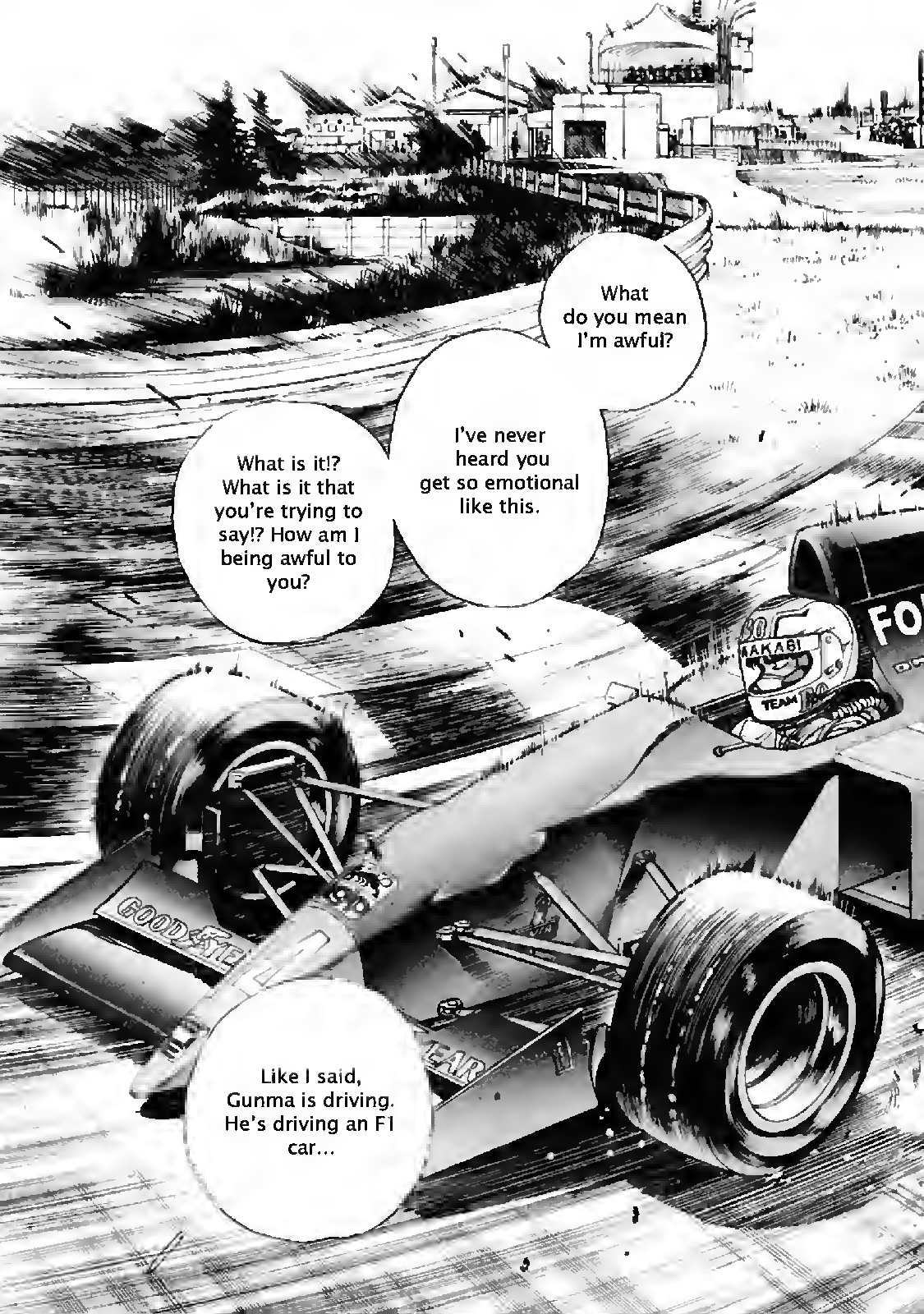
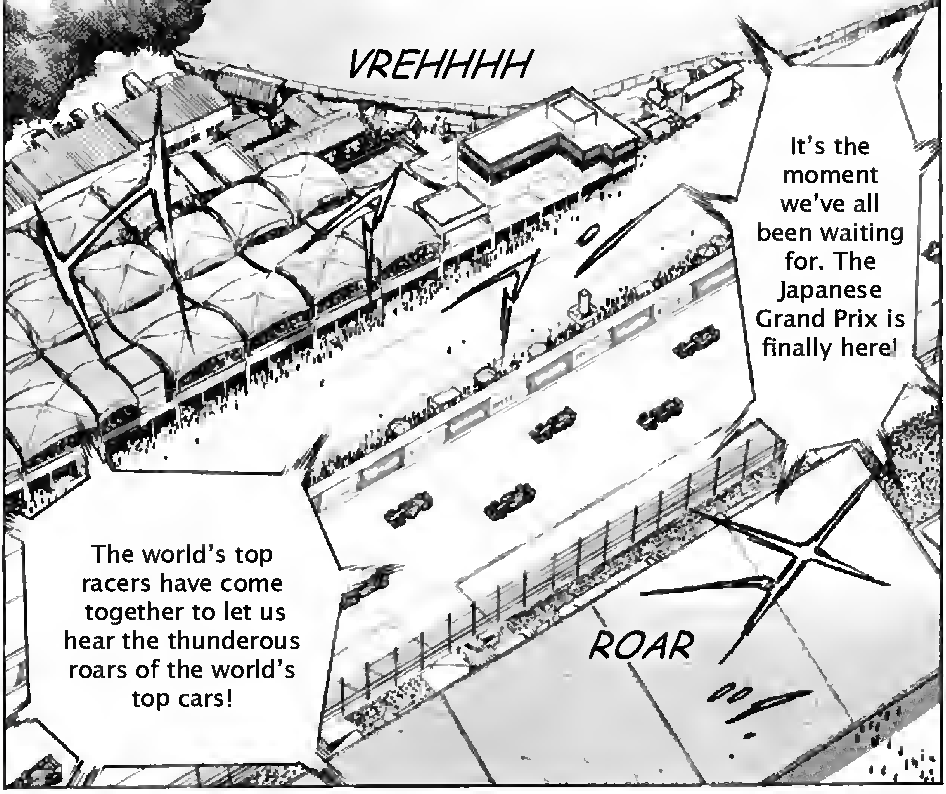
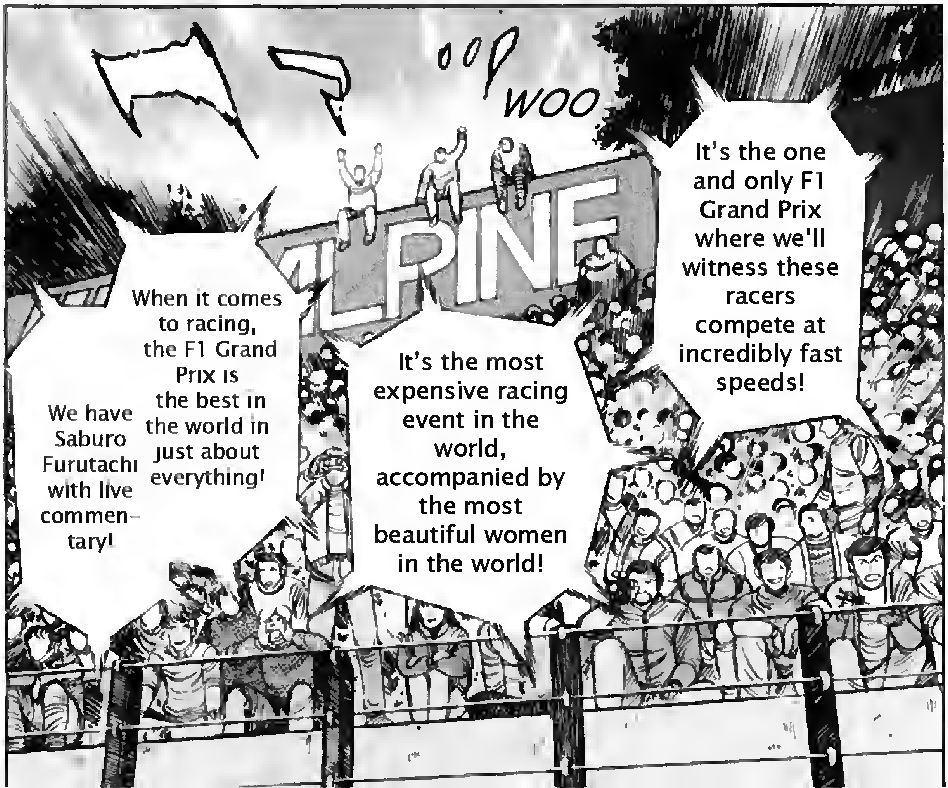

What do you mean I'm awful?
I've never heard you get so emotional like this.
What is it!? What is it that you're trying to say!? How am I being awful to you?
Like I said, Gunma is driving. He's driving an F1 car...
30
AKABI
TEAM
GOODYEAR

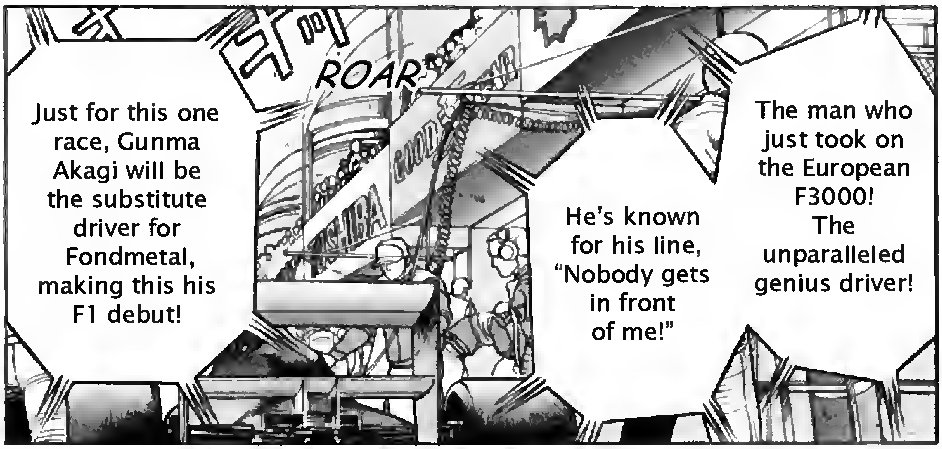
What the hell is goin' on with her?
Tsk...
CLICK
Hey, Junko, come on...
VROOOM
PRESS
17
This will be a good experience for you. Watch how the top racers drive. It doesn't matter if you're at the tail end, just try to make it on the grid.
This is the perfect opportunity to practice for next season.
Don't screw up during the pre-qualifying round...
And men will be men. That's just how it works.
Ahh, whatever. Women will be women.
That's the first time I've heard Junko get so emotional...
Hmm...
FWOOSH

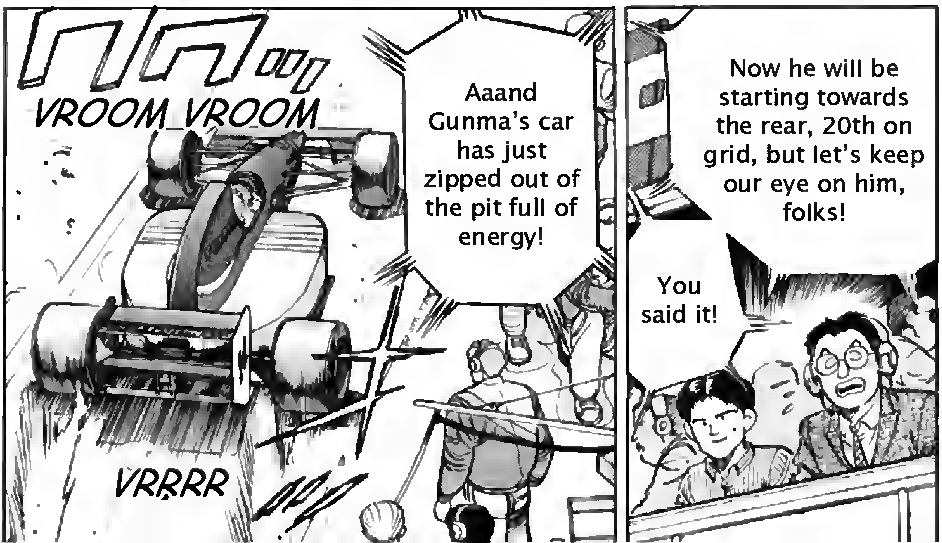
Even if it's just practice, I have to watch Gunma every time he races.
I'm sorry, Auntie!
Do you really have to go? Why don't you leave tomorrow?
You only arrived just now...
I'll be fine.
I don't feel sick anymore, either.
You sounded hysterical on the phone.
...you're not yourself right now.
The doctor may have said it's just a minor case of anemia, but...
Is it that you yourself want to see him race? Or... Do you want to show someone else?
Junko, tell me...
You're right. I need to apologize to Mr. Kuroi.
...

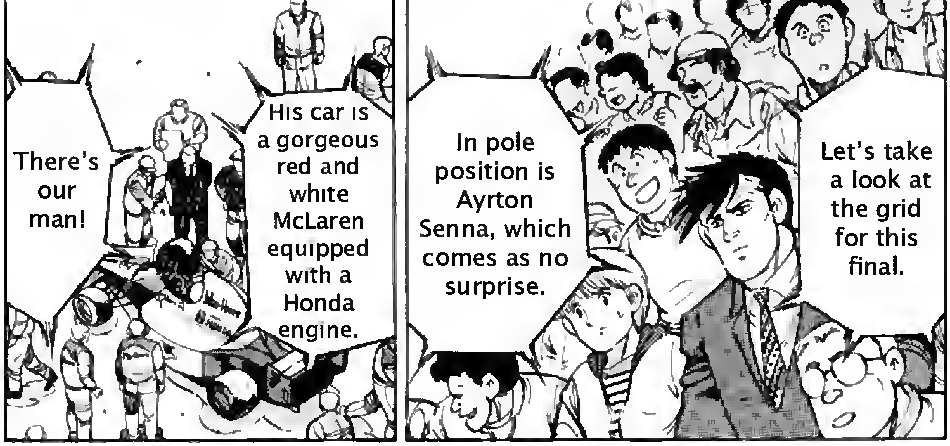

VREHHHH
It's the moment we've all been waiting for. The Japanese Grand Prix is finally here!
The world's top racers have come together to let us hear the thunderous roars of the world's top cars!
ROAR

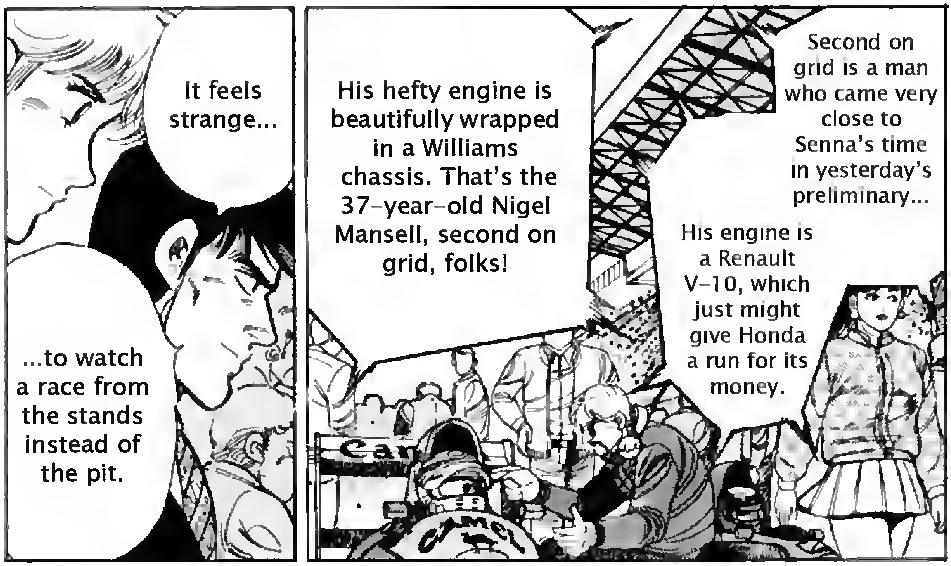

WOO
ALPINE
It's the one and only F1 Grand Prix where we'll witness these racers compete at incredibly fast speeds!
When it comes to racing, the F1 Grand Prix is the best in the world in just about everything!
We have Saburo Furutachi with live commentary!
It's the most expensive racing event in the world, accompanied by the most beautiful women in the world!

It's just like three years ago when Aguri Suzuki made his sudden entry!
That's right. In addition to Nakajima and Suzuki, one more Japanese driver will be entering this race.
By the way, Mr. Imamiya, we have some good news for the Japanese fans out there, don't we?


ROAR
Just for this one race, Gunma Akagi will be the substitute driver for Fondmetal, making this his F1 debut!
He's known for his line, "Nobody gets in front of me!"
The man who just took on the European F3000! The unparalleled genius driver!


VROOM VROOM
VRRRR
Aaand Gunma's car has just zipped out of the pit full of energy!
Now he will be starting towards the rear, 20th on grid, but let's keep our eye on him, folks!
You said it!

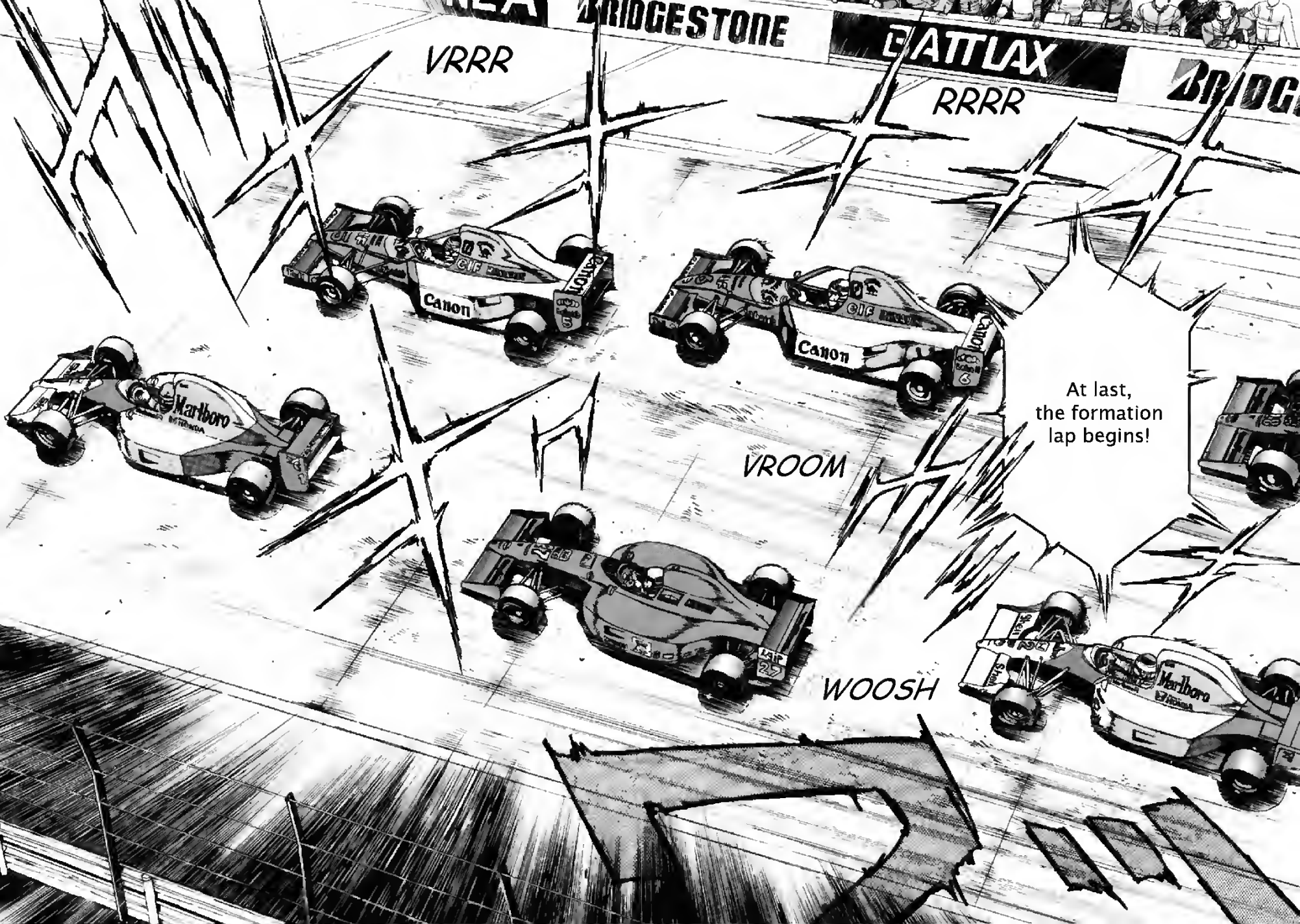

There's our man!
His car is a gorgeous red and white McLaren equipped with a Honda engine.
In pole position is Ayrton Senna, which comes as no surprise.
Let's take a look at the grid for this final.


It feels strange...
...to watch a race from the stands instead of the pit.
His hefty engine is beautifully wrapped in a Williams chassis. That's the 37-year-old Nigel Mansell, second on grid, folks!
Second on grid is a man who came very close to Senna's time in yesterday's preliminary...
His engine is a Renault V-10, which just might give Honda a run for its money.

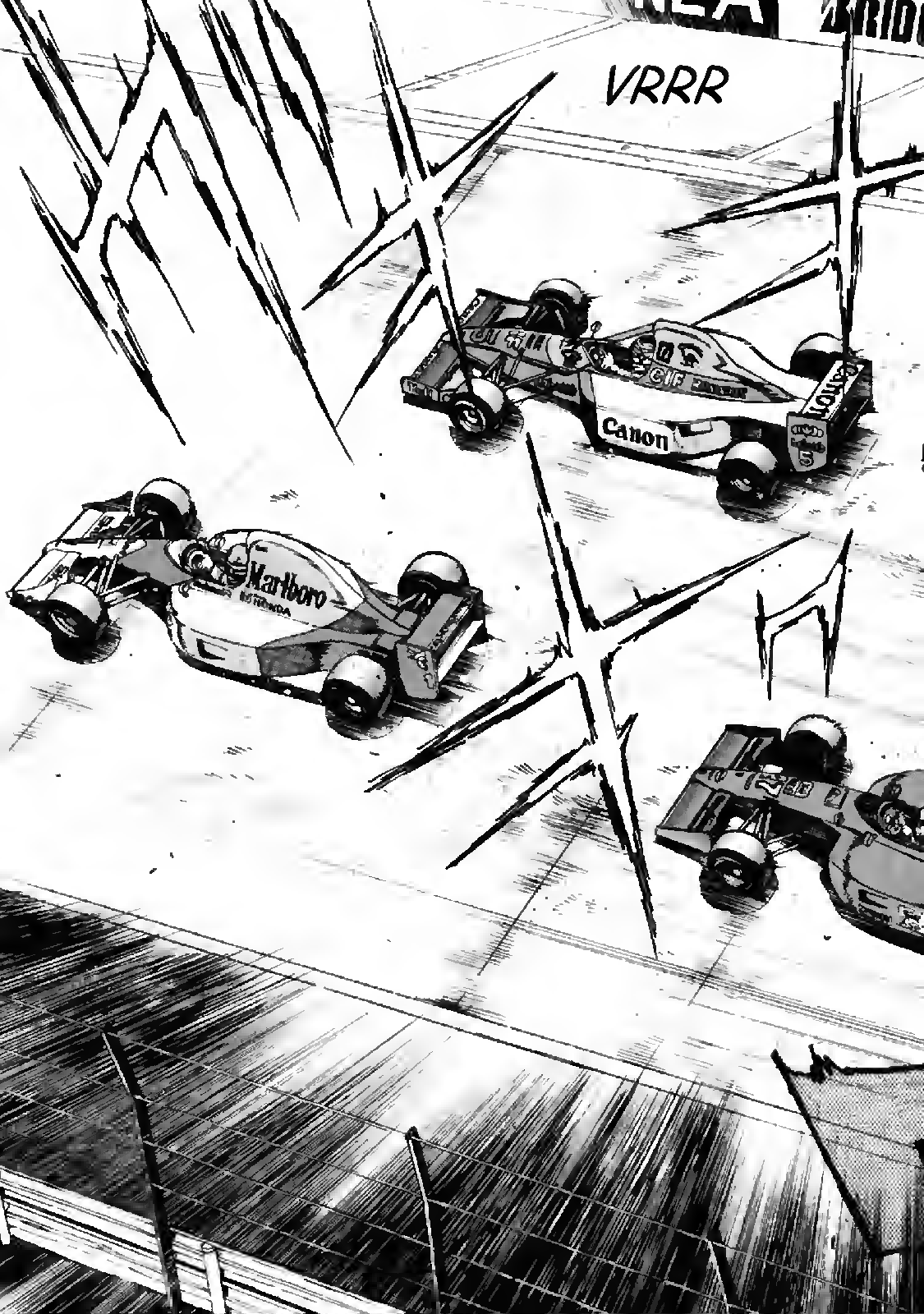
Even in the same venue...
There's always a sense of distance between the drivers and the spectators. I'm reminded of that as I sit in the stands...

...
...the atmosphere in the circuit seems completely different from its surrounding area.

Lately, it's hard to tell when Gunma might fly off his rocker.
It's understandable that you became so emotional.
I think I understand now.
It's because you love him that you would want that moment to stand still forever in your mind.
It's no wonder that a woman who loves him would want the sight of him racing etched into her memory.
No, I'm the one who needs to apologize.
I'm sorry... I...
...
...to their own dreams...
Men are slaves...
BRAAAAH
HMPH

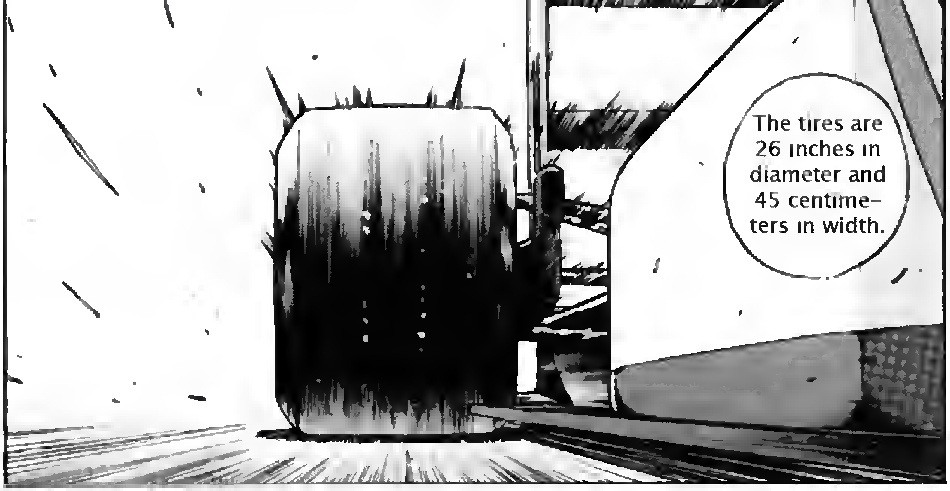

BRIDGESTONE
CATTLAX
VRRR
RRRR
Canon
elf
Marlboro
At last, the formation lap begins!
VROOM
WOOSH

GESTONE
FATTLAX
RRRR
Canon
6
At last,
the formation
lap begins!
VROOM
27
WOOSH
Marlboro

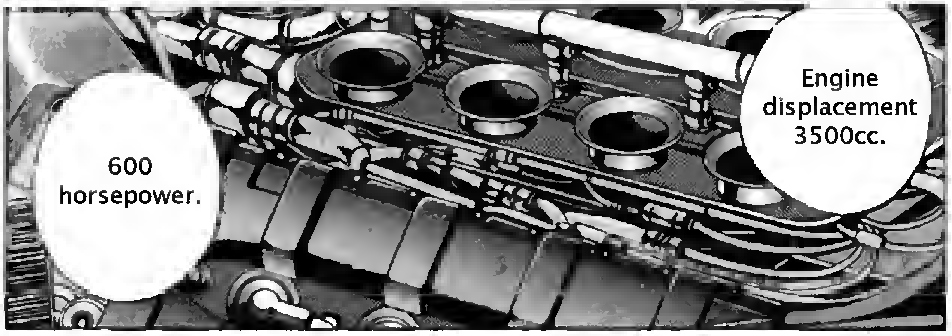

VRRR
Canon
Marlboro
HONDA

...I'll make sure you're there to see it.
Even for the most insignificant of test runs...
I'll make you another promise. A real promise this time. We'll never leave you out of a decision.
...
...a child in your womb!
This is a promise to you, and to what I think is...
Please...
Mr. Kuroi... Please promise me one more thing.
80
GUNMA AKABI
Don't tell Gunma.

Marlboro
BOSS
MEN'S FASHION
RHEOS
Chapter 3:
The World's Best
Marlboro
elf RENAULT
Nigel Mansell


The tires are 26 inches in diameter and 45 centimeters in width.

1.12 air resistance.
The body weighs 500kg.
GOODYEAR


600 horsepower.
Engine displacement 3500cc.

The fastest machine to run on the surface of the earth...
It can run, it can turn, and it can stop.

AKAGI
TEAM
You're the only one...
F1...
...let me pass...
...who will...
VRRRRVRRRRVRRRR
...that black shadow!

BREHHHHHH
And off they go! The 1991 Japanese GP begins!
VREHHHH
VROOM
elf
5
Marlboro
Shell
HONDA
1
Shell

BREHHHHHH
And off they go! The 1991 Japanese GP begins!
Marlboro
Shell
Marlboro
HONDA
1
TAG HEUER
Shell
Shell

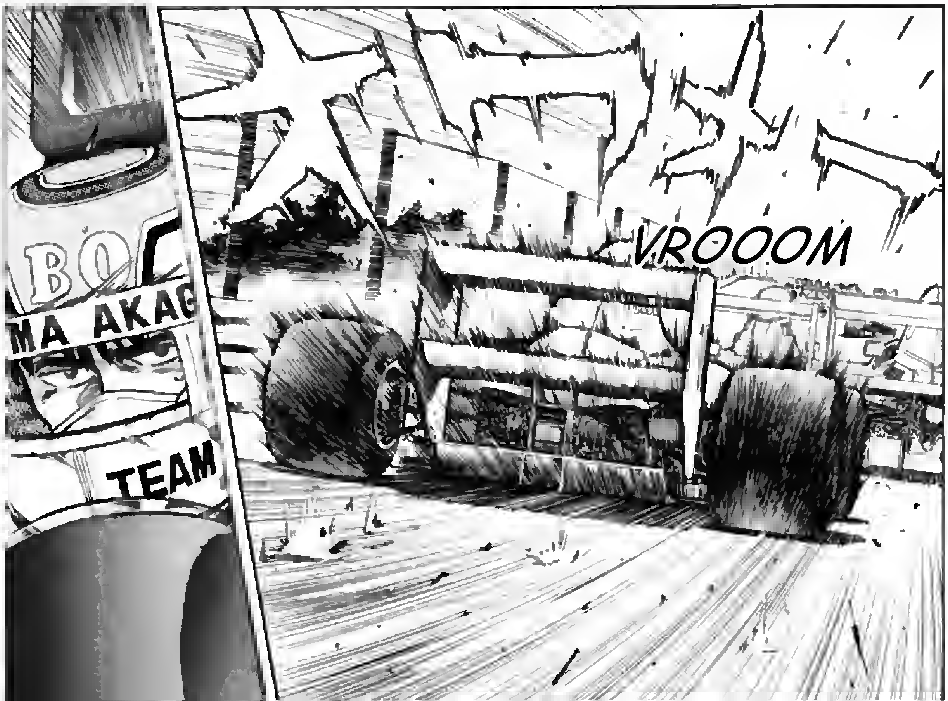
VREHHHH
elf
5
VROOM

ZOOOOOM
VROOOH
Ayrton Senna displays some fine gear shifting as he leads the way clearing the first corner!
And in second is Nigel Mansell! He's 37 years old and still full of life!
In third is Piqué from Benetton.
Behind him is Alan Prost in the crimson Ferrari.
Cesaris is in fifth...
...and trailing him is Berger!
JANOM

I saw that too!
...he passed two cars right off the bat...
What about Gun-ma!?
I think...
VRRRR
The group of cars in the lead have cleared the S-curve and headed into the reverse bank!
VROOM
You just need to get a feel for it! That's all!
No need to panic! It's your first F1 race.
AKAGI
TEAM BG

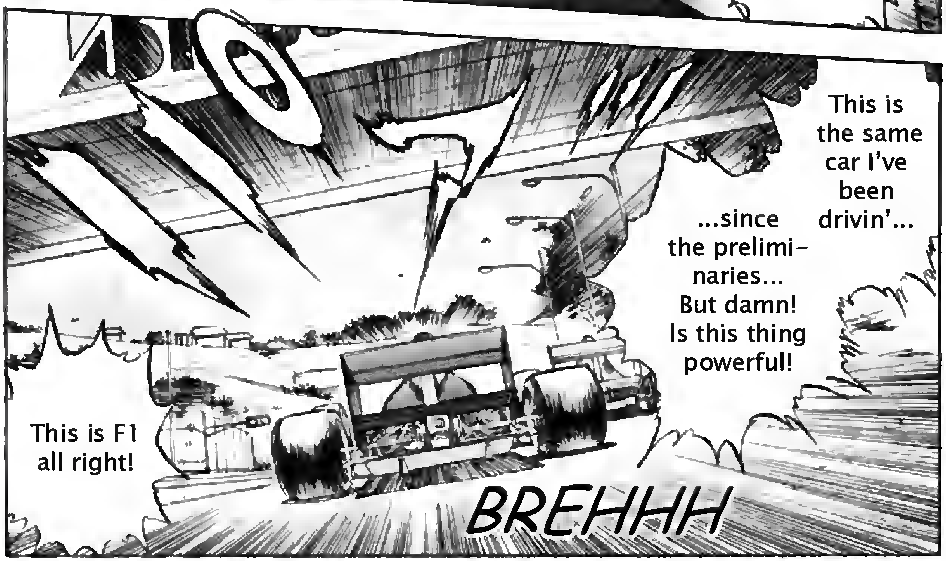
VROOOM
Wait...

Huh!?
He just passed another guy!

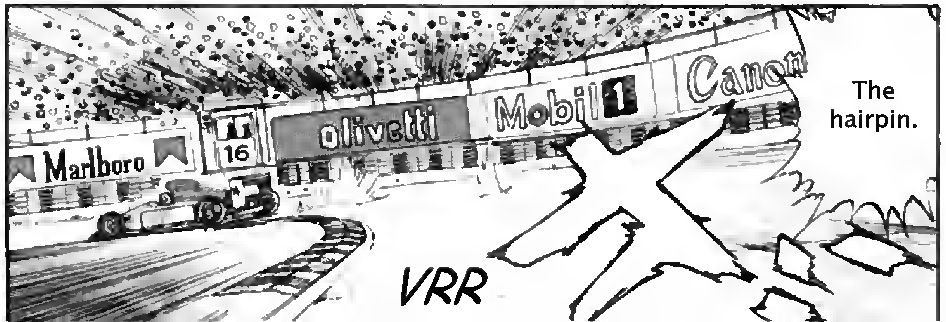

VROOOM
TEAM

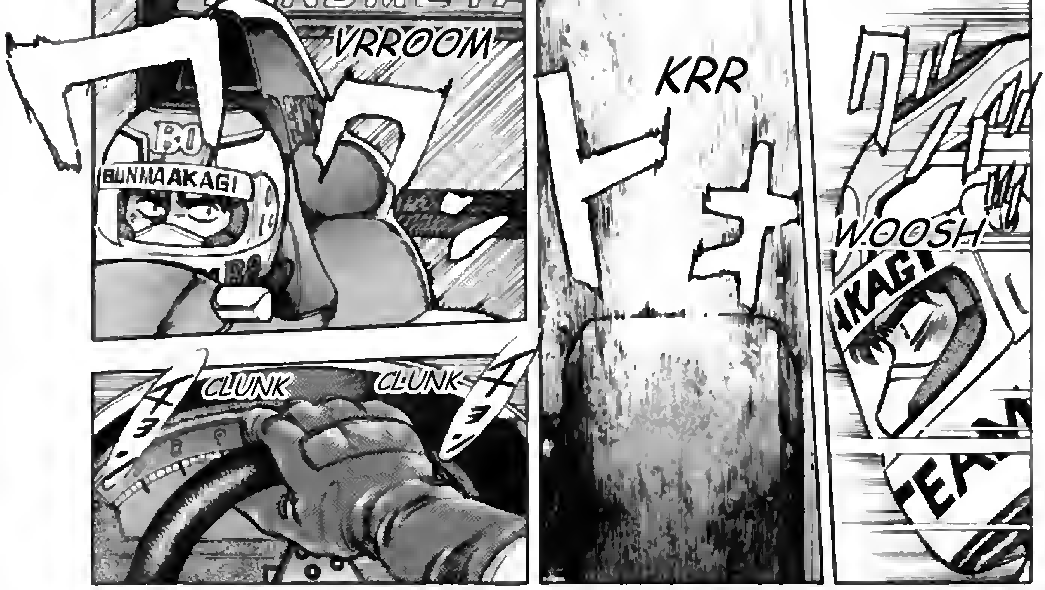
FWOOSH
KRR
The Degner Curve.
ZOOOM

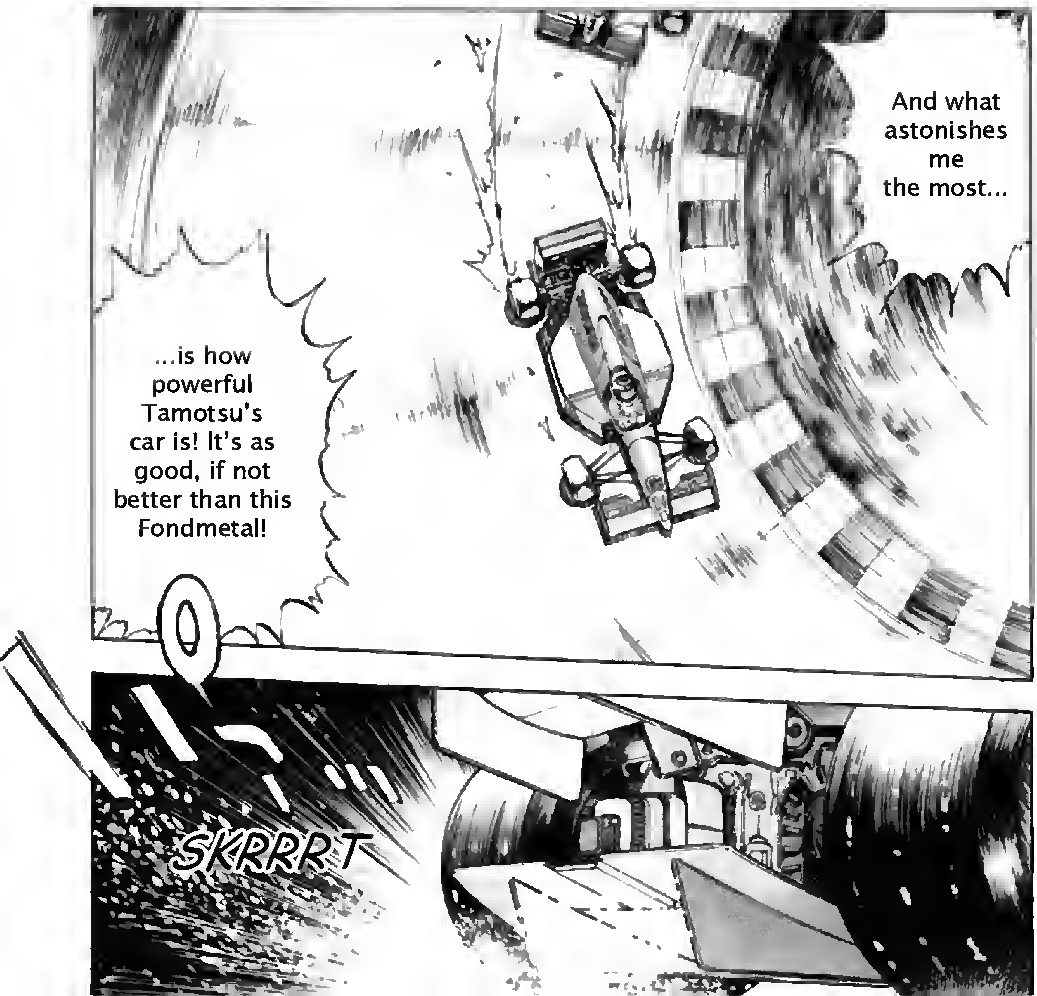
ZOOOM
GUNMA AKAGI
Hurgh ...
This ain't bad...

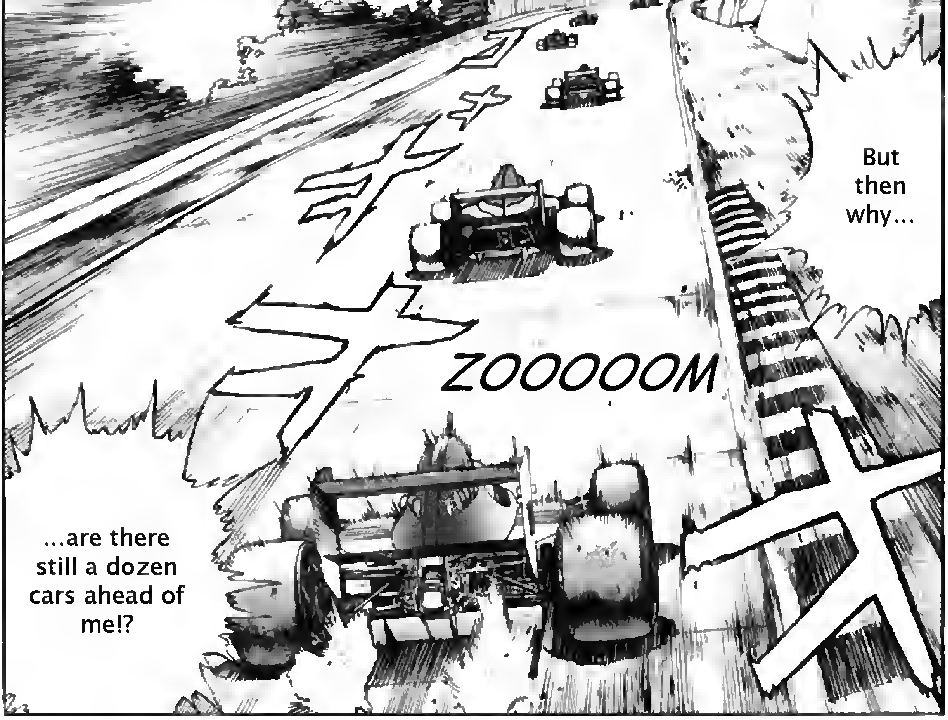

This is the same car I've been drivin'...
...since the prelimi-naries... But damn! Is this thing powerful!
This is F1 all right!
BREHHH

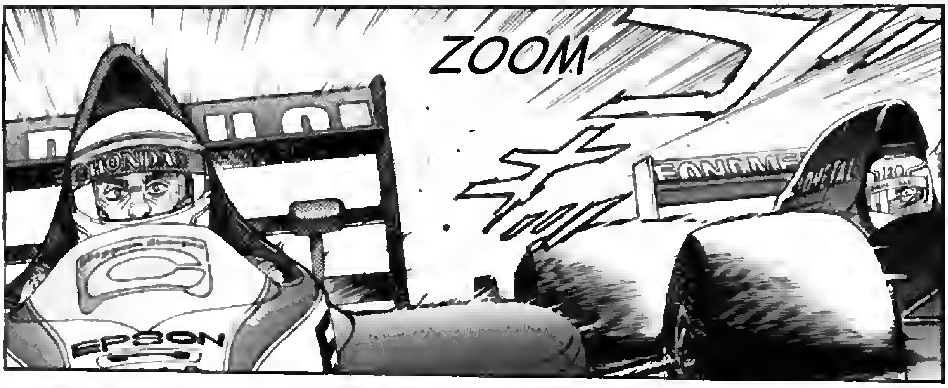
It's like I'm a beginner again...
This wall of air! The weight of gravity!
I thought I was used to lateral acceleration, but now it's making my heart race all over again.

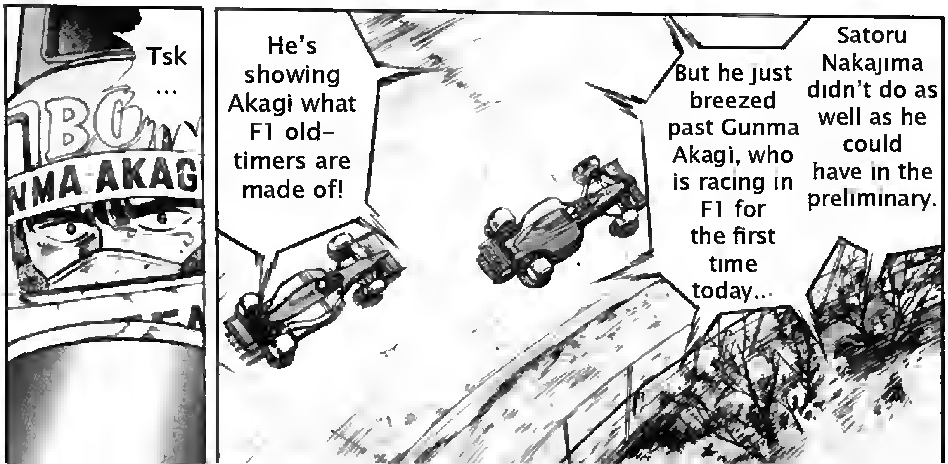

Marlboro
16
Olivetti
Mobil 1
The hairpin.
VRR

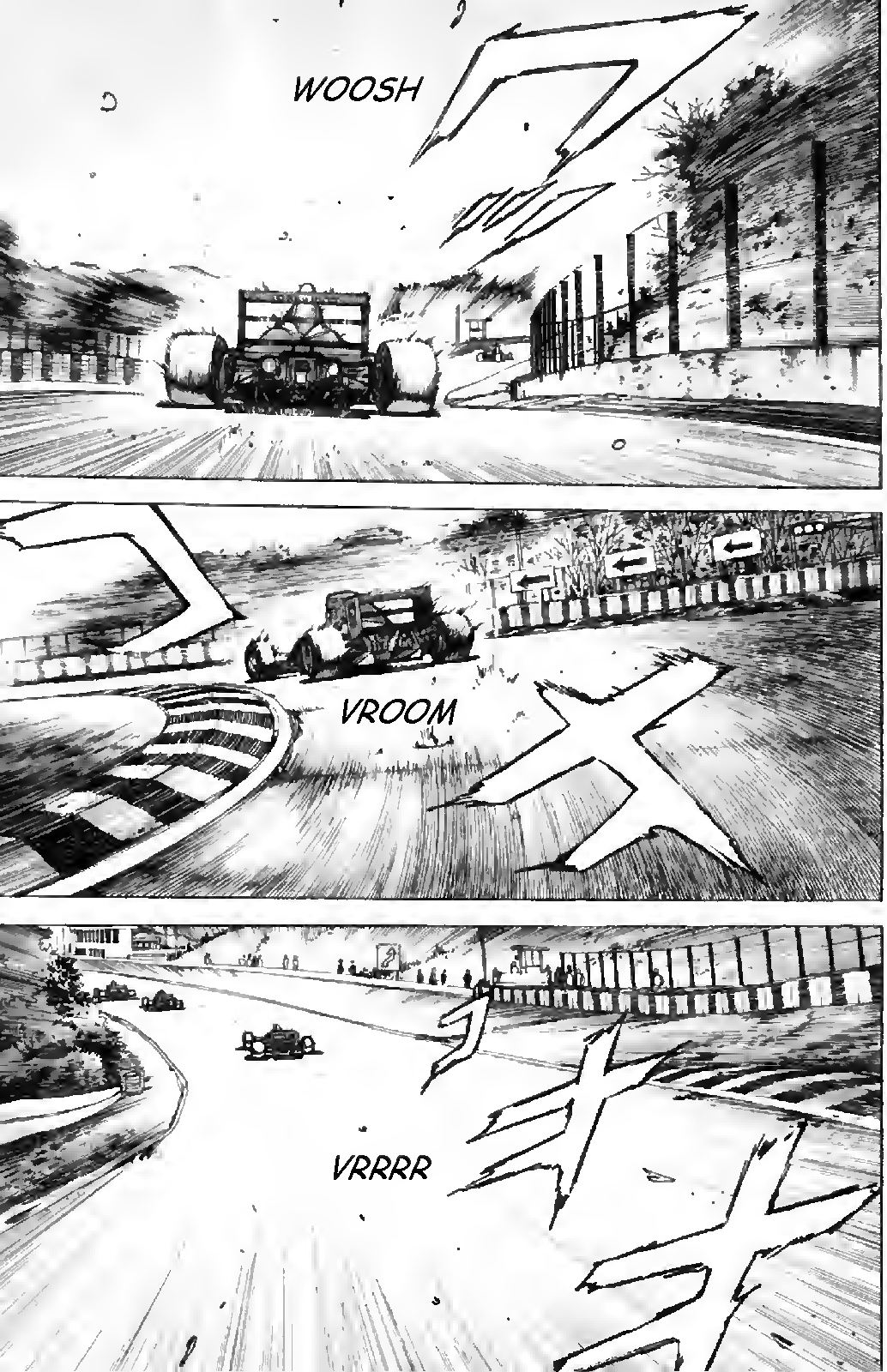

VRROOM
BUNMAAKAGI
CLUNK
CLUNK
KRR
W.OOSH
KAGI


And what astonishes me the most...
...is how powerful Tamotsu's car is! It's as good, if not better than this Fondmetal!
SKRRRT


But then why...
ZOOOOOM
...are there still a dozen cars ahead of me!?


ZOOM
HONDA
EPSON


Tsk ...
NMA AKAG
He's showing Akagi what F1 old-timers are made of!
But he just breezed past Gunma Akagi, who is racing in F1 for the first time today...
Satoru Nakajima didn't do as well as he could have in the preliminary.

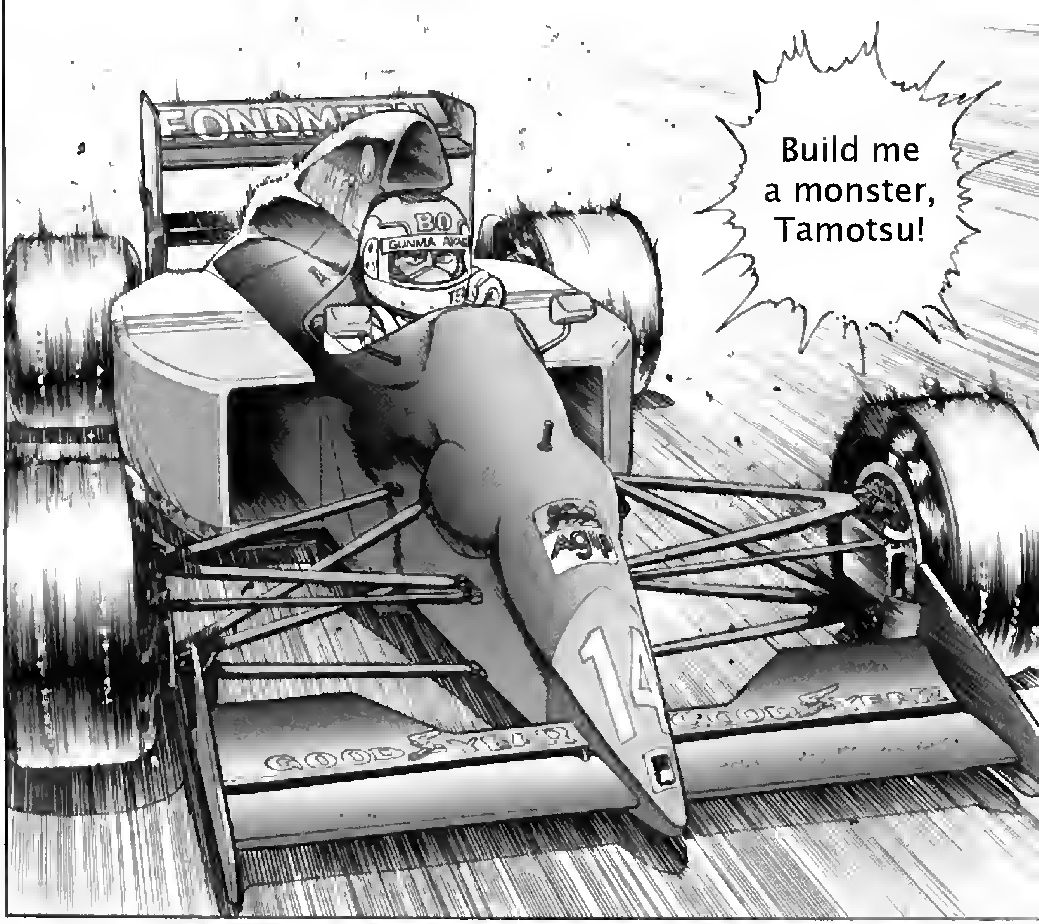

WOOSH
VROOM
VRRRR

FWOOSH
Gunma Akagi has no time to stop and admire the veterans!
He's just been passed by yet another racer, Aguri Suzuki!
...
So... fast...
TEAM BO
They're freakin' mon-sters...
Zoom!
Zoom!
TOSHIBA
Dammit! Senna, Piqué, Mansell, Prost...
Where are all the guys I see on TV!?
VRRRRR
The cars are mon-sters...
...and the drivers too!

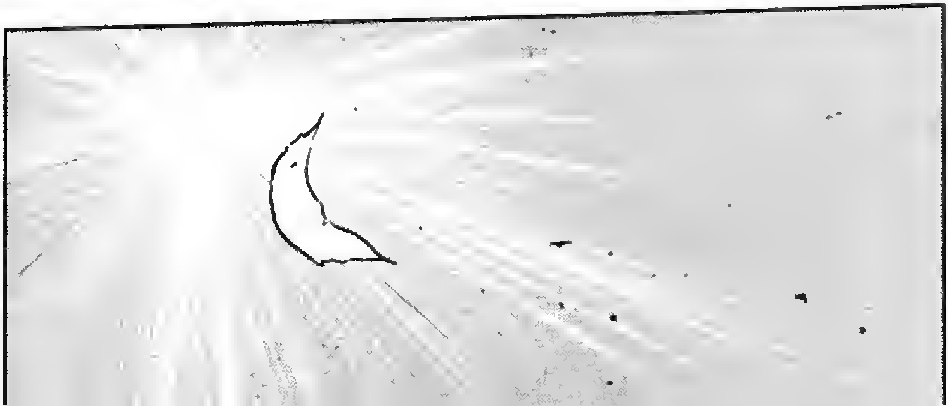
Mr. Kuroi ...
WOO
WOO
Keep your head in the game, Gunma! There's still a long way to go!
Be patient!
You had a medical examination card from the hospital.
...
...that I'm pregnant?
How could you tell...
!
I was hoping it would be true, I suppose.
It was actually just a guess.
Now I couldn't be sure whether that card was from the gynecology department.
...I do think you need to tell him yourself!
But ...
If you want me to keep it a secret from Gunma, then I won't say a word.

No.
All kites need a string, and all boats need an anchor.
Why should I?
Why ...?
!?
Women have their own dreams, too.
That's not what I want my child to become.
ZOOOM
...
...aren't just for men, you know.
Dreams ...

Gun-
ma!
CRUNCH
What place is he in!?
KRRRRR
ゴォ——
ゴォォ..
KRRR

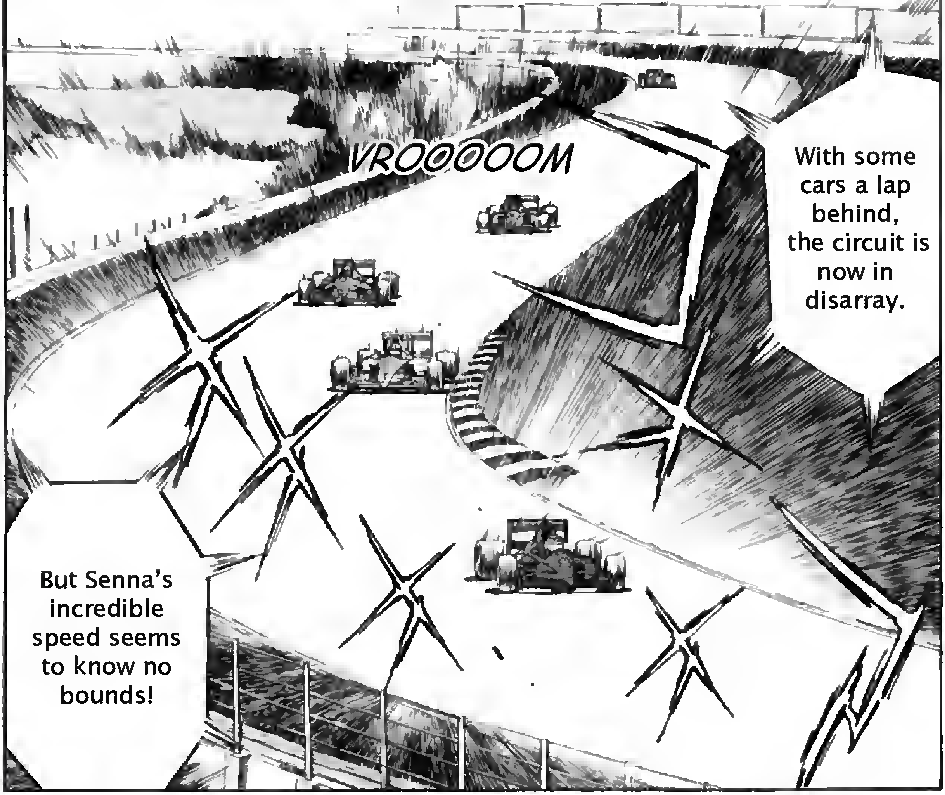

Build me a monster, Tamotsu!

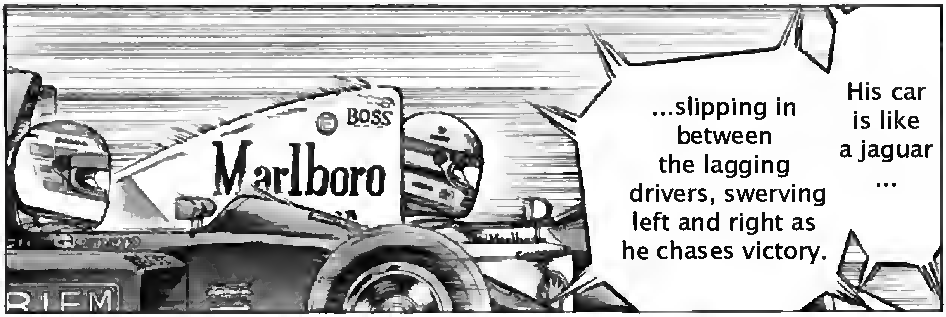
...a monster, too!
SNAP
Then I'll beco-me...

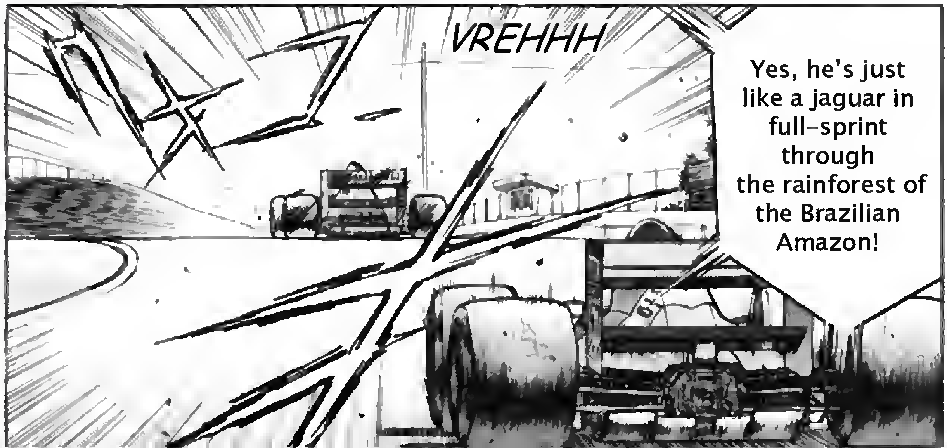


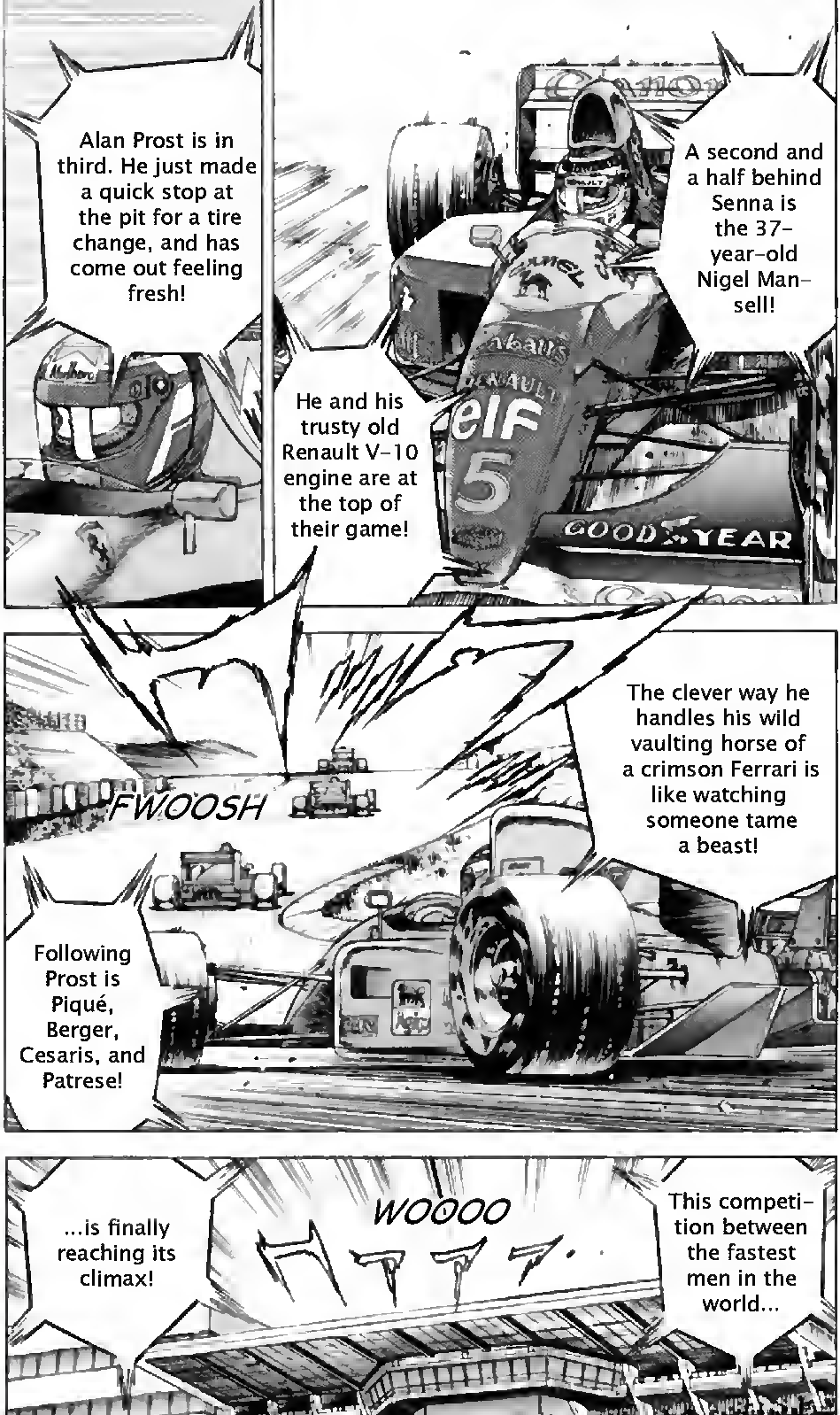
Chapter 4:
Left Behind

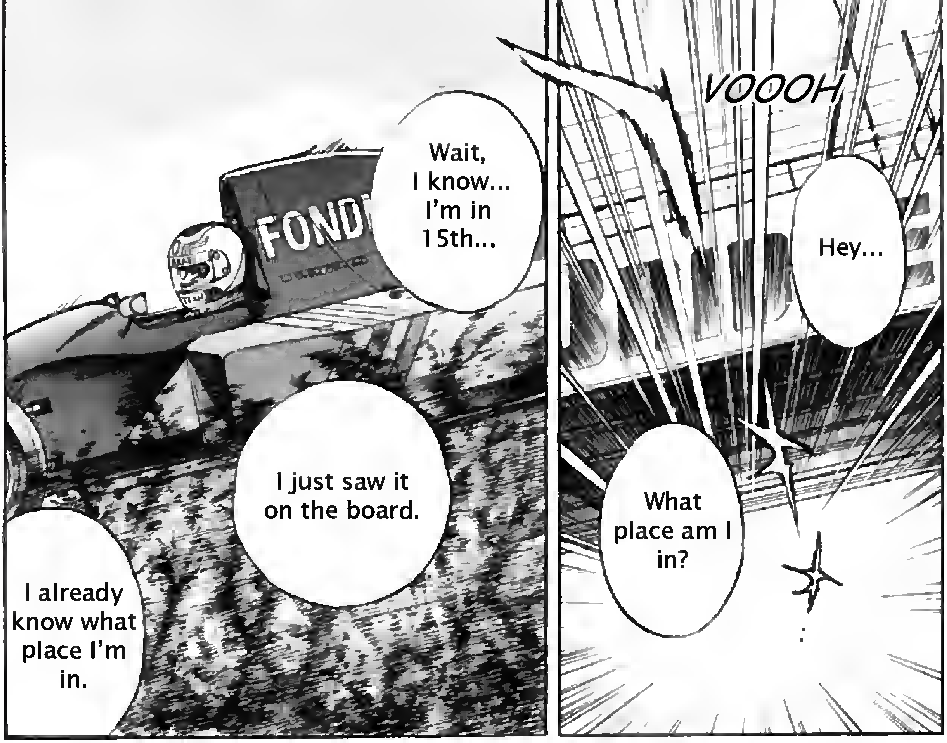
VRRRVRRR
Marlboro
We're about halfway through the race, folks! Senna has just entered the McLaren Honda pit for a tire change!
Marlboro
Shell
ZWOOM
Ayrton Senna is still in the lead as he leaves the pit stop!
7.8 seconds! That was quick!
Marlboro
4, 5, 6... It's the mechanics' time to shine!
VROOOH

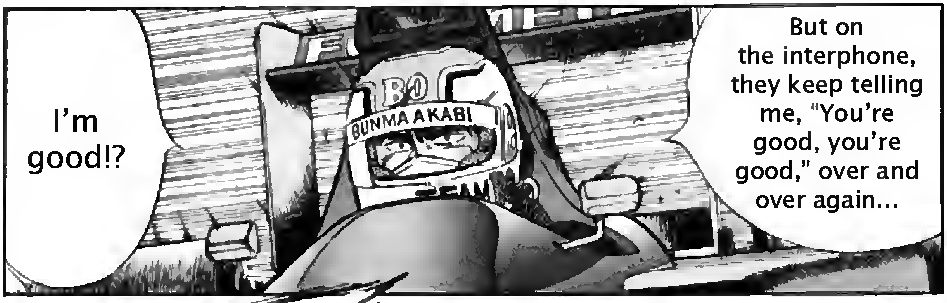

VROOOOOM
With some cars a lap behind, the circuit is now in disarray.
But Senna's incredible speed seems to know no bounds!

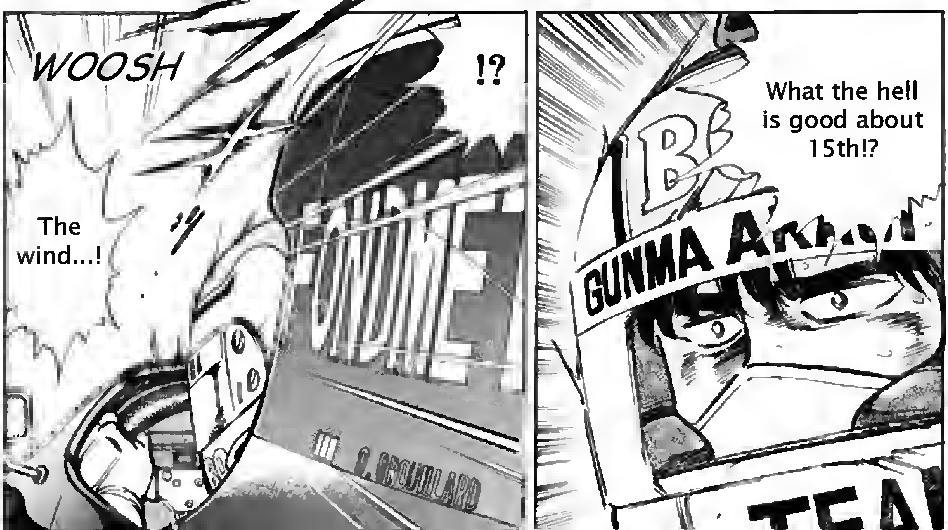

Boss
Marlboro
His car is like a jaguar ...
...slipping in between the lagging drivers, swerving left and right as he chases victory.

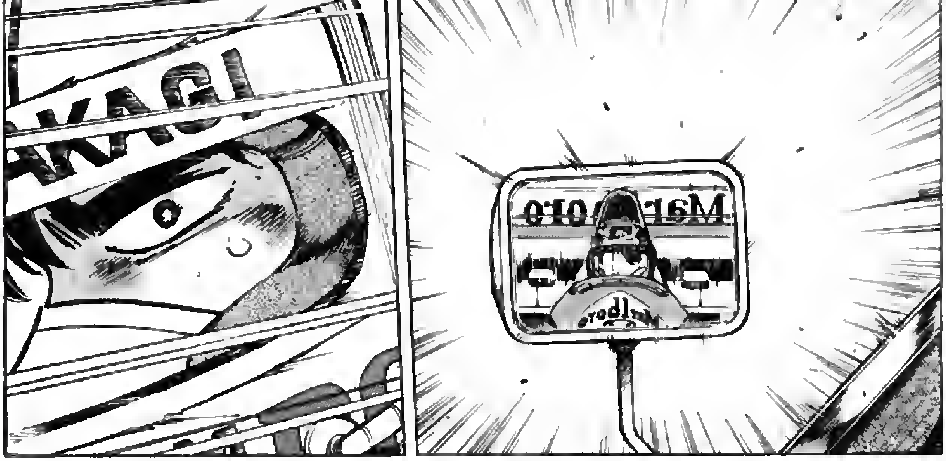

VREHHH
Yes, he's just like a jaguar in full-sprint through the rainforest of the Brazilian Amazon!

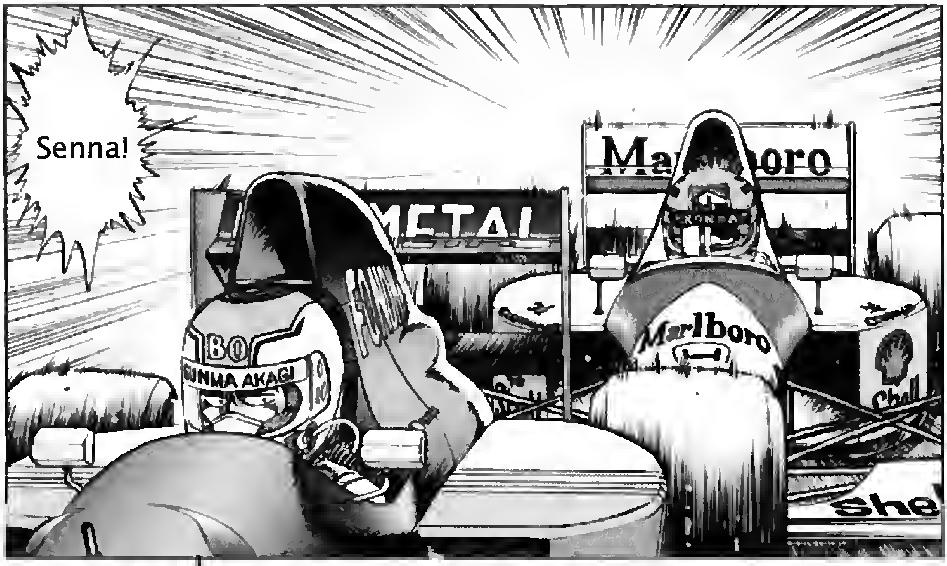

Alan Prost is in third. He just made a quick stop at the pit for a tire change, and has come out feeling fresh!
A second and a half behind Senna is the 37-year-old Nigel Mansell!
He and his trusty old Renault V-10 engine are at the top of their game!
elf
5
GOODYEAR
FWOOSH
The clever way he handles his wild vaulting horse of a crimson Ferrari is like watching someone tame a beast!
Following Prost is Piqué, Berger, Cesaris, and Patrese!
...is finally reaching its climax!
WOOOO
This competition between the fastest men in the world...

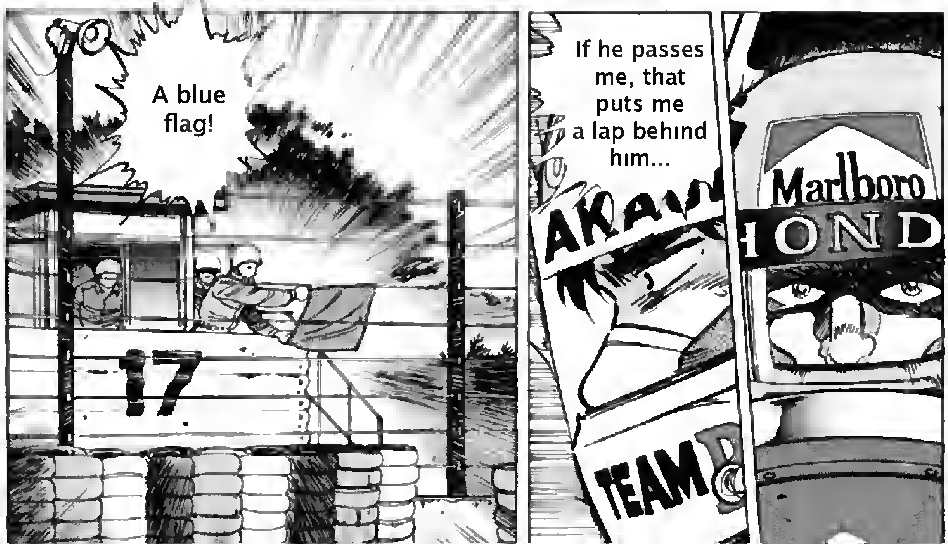

Wait, I know... I'm in 15th...
I just saw it on the board.
I already know what place I'm in.
VOOOH
Hey...
What place am I in?

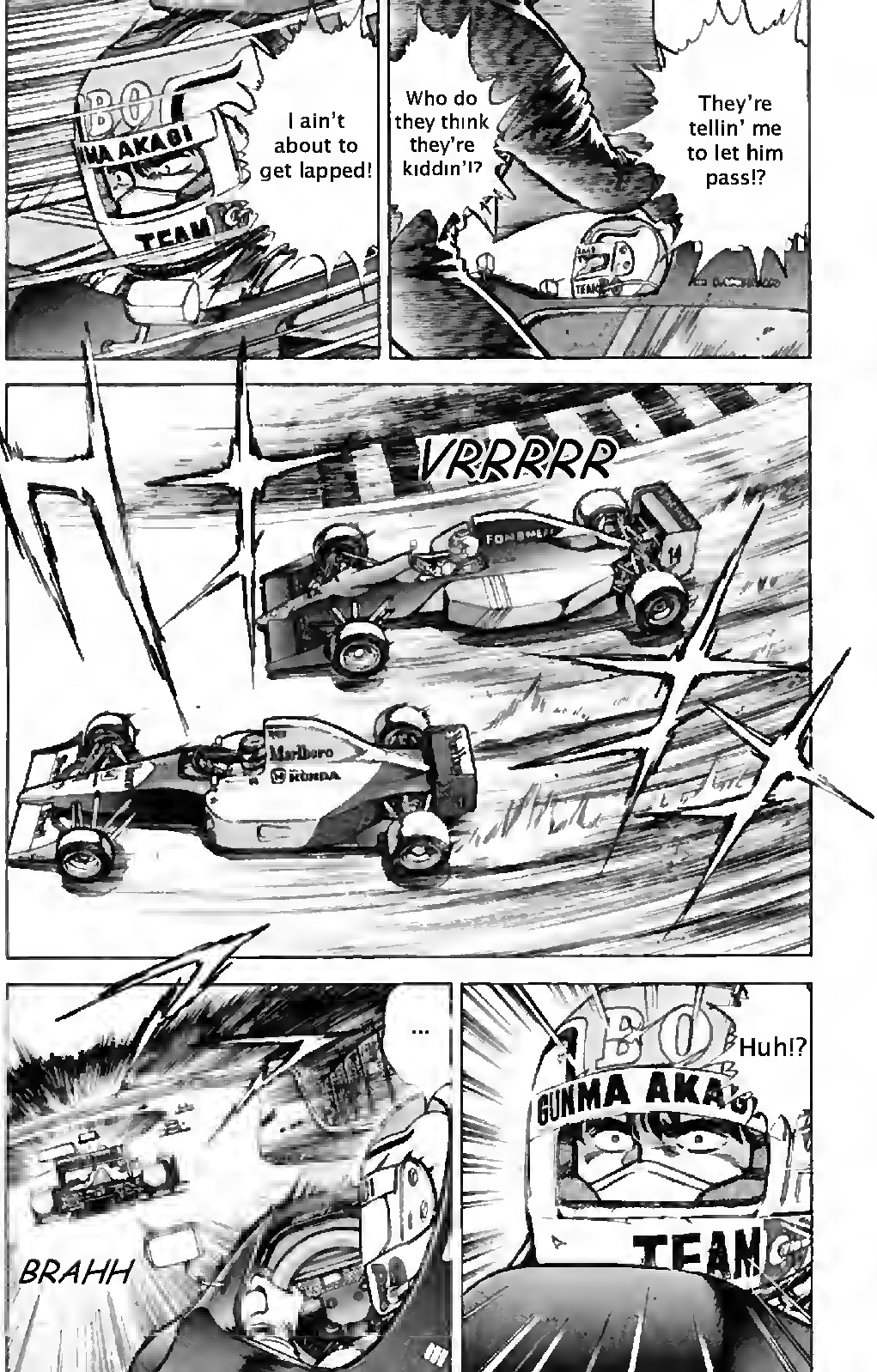

I'm good!?
BUNMA AKABI
But on the interphone, they keep telling me, "You're good, you're good," over and over again...


WOOSH
!?
The wind...!
What the hell is good about 15th!?
GUNMA AKABI

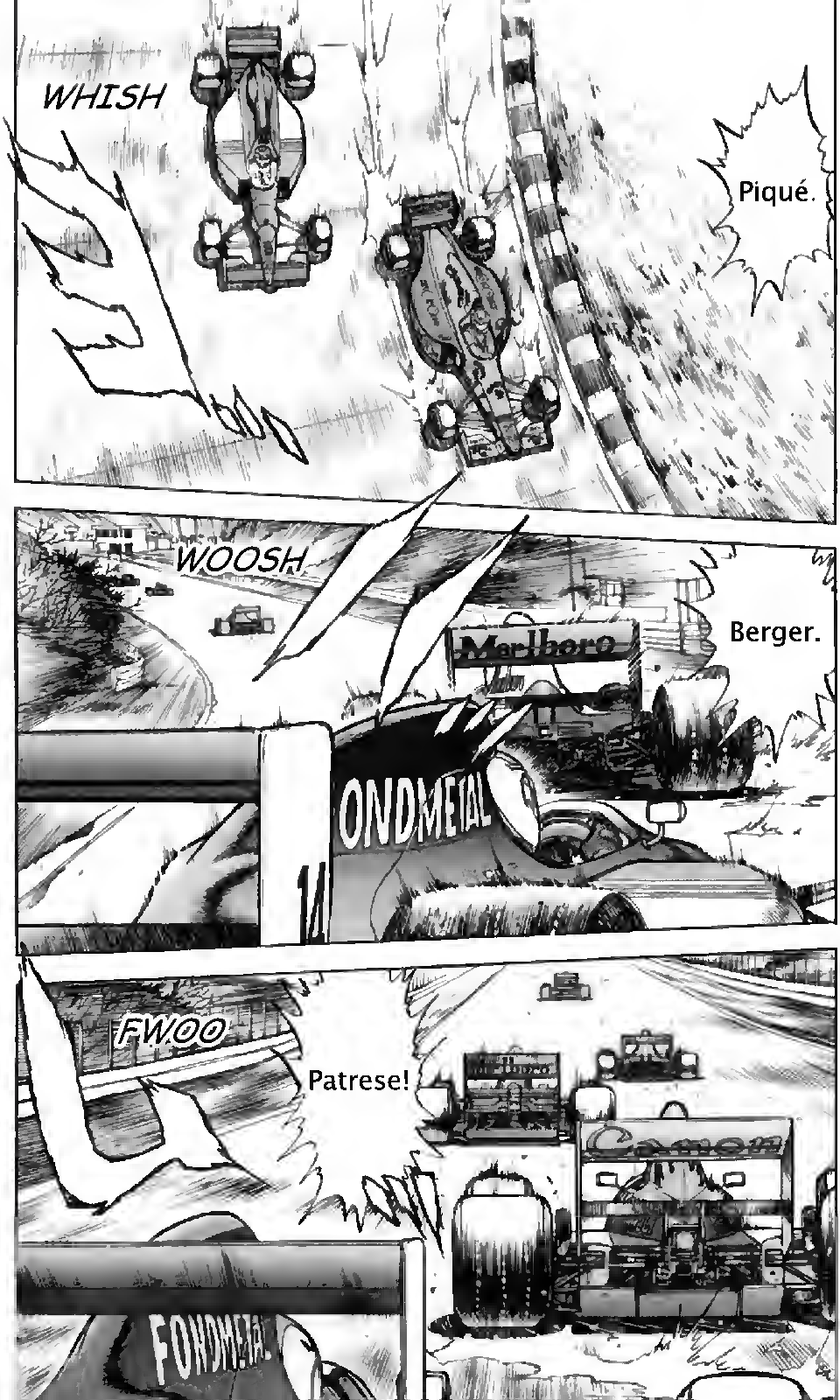

AKAGI

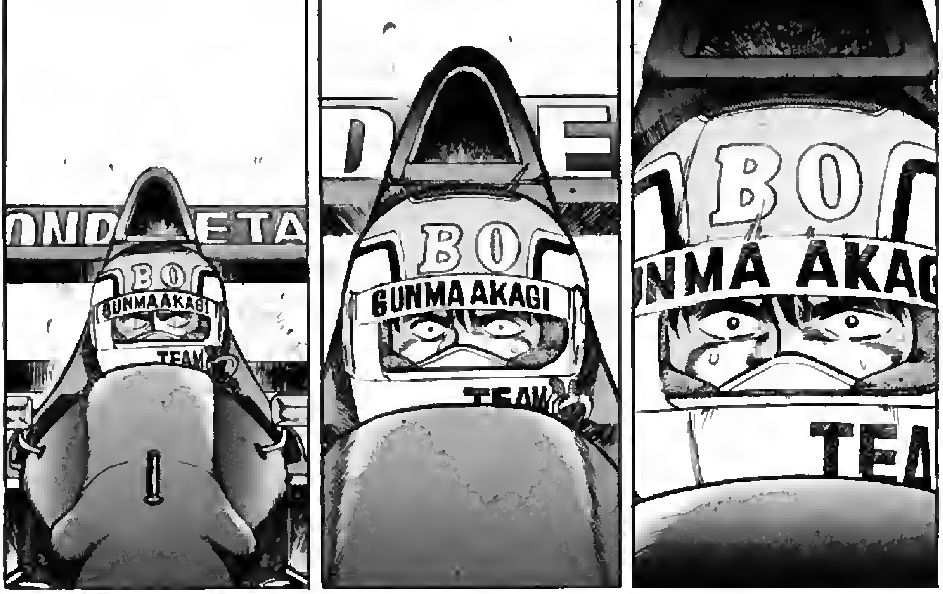

Senna!
Marlboro
METAL
Marlboro
GUNMA AKAGI
Shell

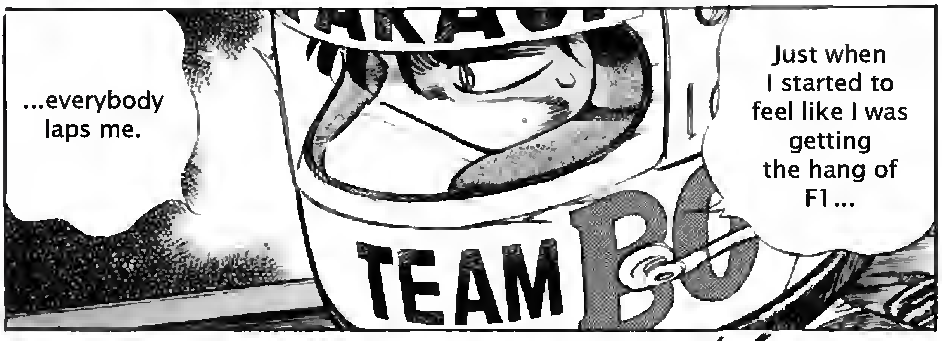

A blue flag!
17
If he passes me, that puts me a lap behind him...
Marlboro
HONDA
TEAM

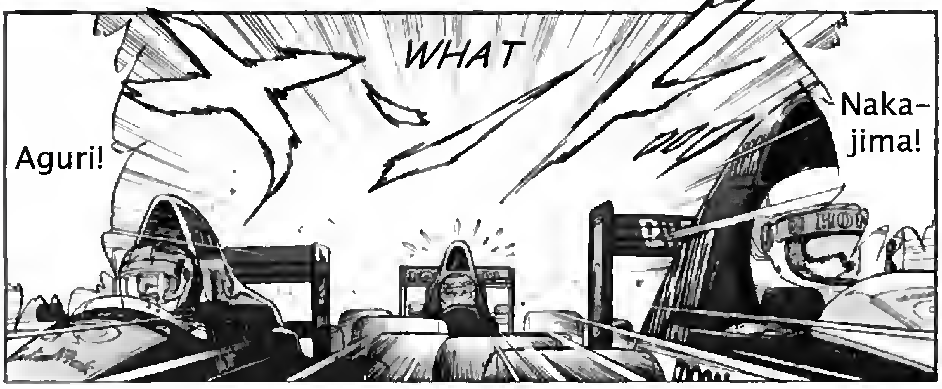

I ain't about to get lapped!
Who do they think they're kiddin'!?
They're tellin' me to let him pass!?
VRRRRR
Marlboro
HONDA
...
BRAHH
Huh!?
GUNMA AKAGI
TEAM

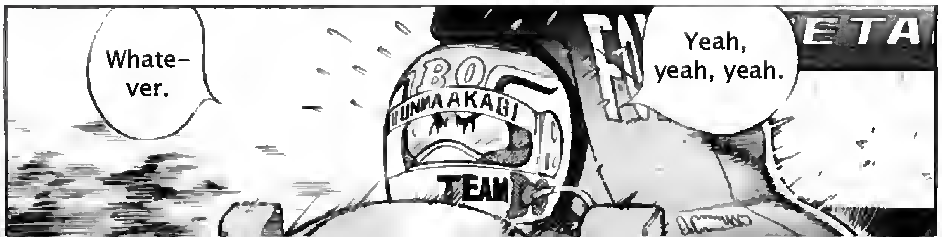
WOOSH
Prost...
M... Man- sell...
SKRRT

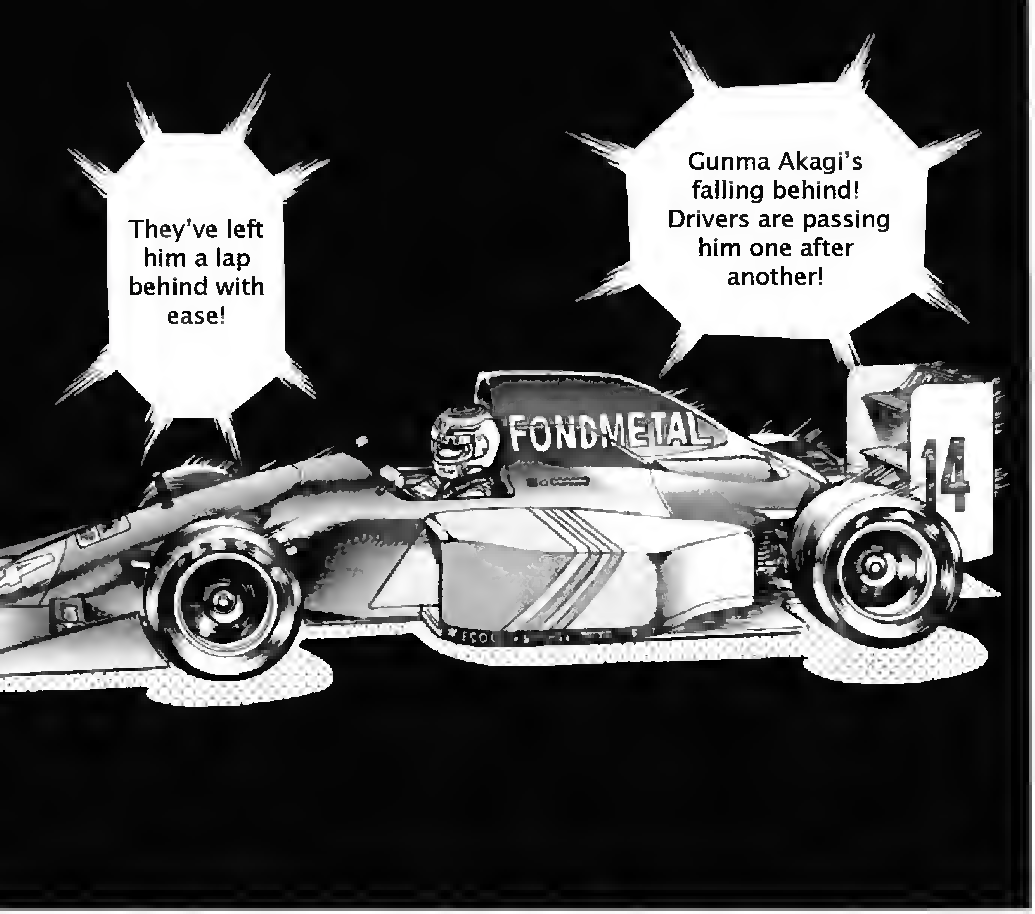

WHISH
Piqué.
WOOSH
Berger.
Marlboro
ONDMETAL
11
FWOO
Patrese!
Canon
FONDMETAL

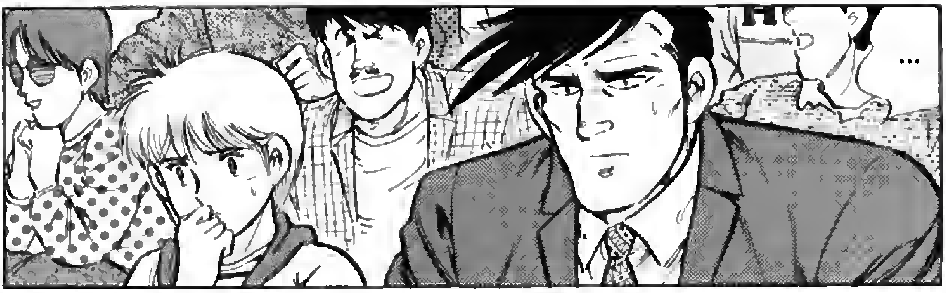

GUNMA AKAGI
TEAM

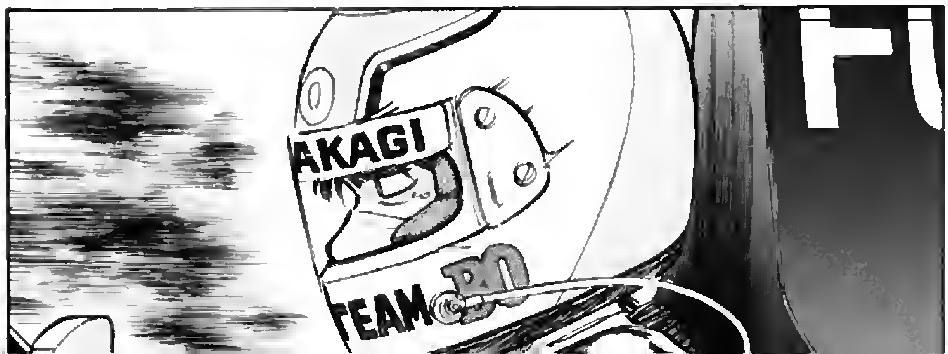

...everybody laps me.
Just when I started to feel like I was getting the hang of F1...
TEAM


WHAT
Aguri!
Naka-jima!


Whate-ver.
Yeah, yeah, yeah.
GUNMA AKAGI
TEAM

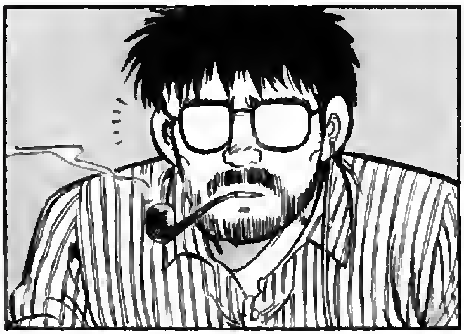

They've left him a lap behind with ease!
Gunma Akagi's falling behind! Drivers are passing him one after another!
FONDMETAL
14

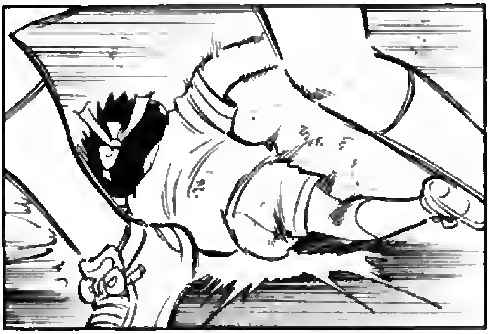

...

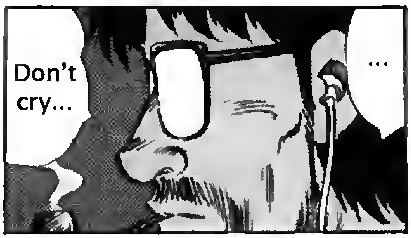

AKAGI
TEAM

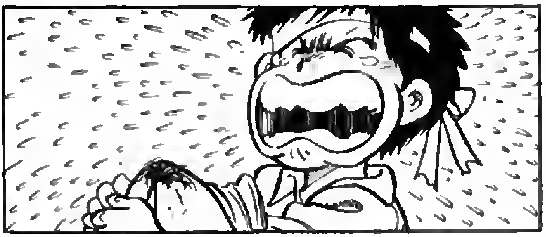
BANG
Ready, set...
Get in position!
DASH
Gunma Akagi, who is making his F1 debut here at the Japanese GP...
...is currently keeping a steady 15th place!
YAY
YAY

YAHHH
Akagi made headlines for his performance in the European F3000, but it appears F1 is another world for him!



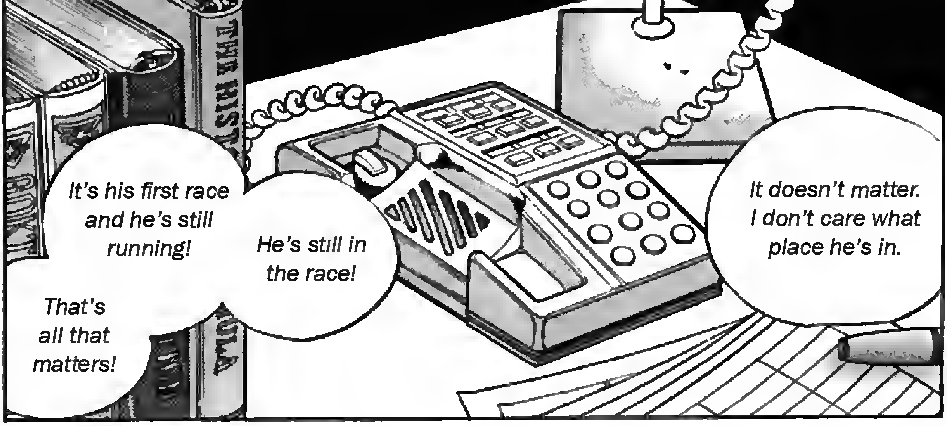



Don't cry...
...



Run!

That's it... Run...
There you go...

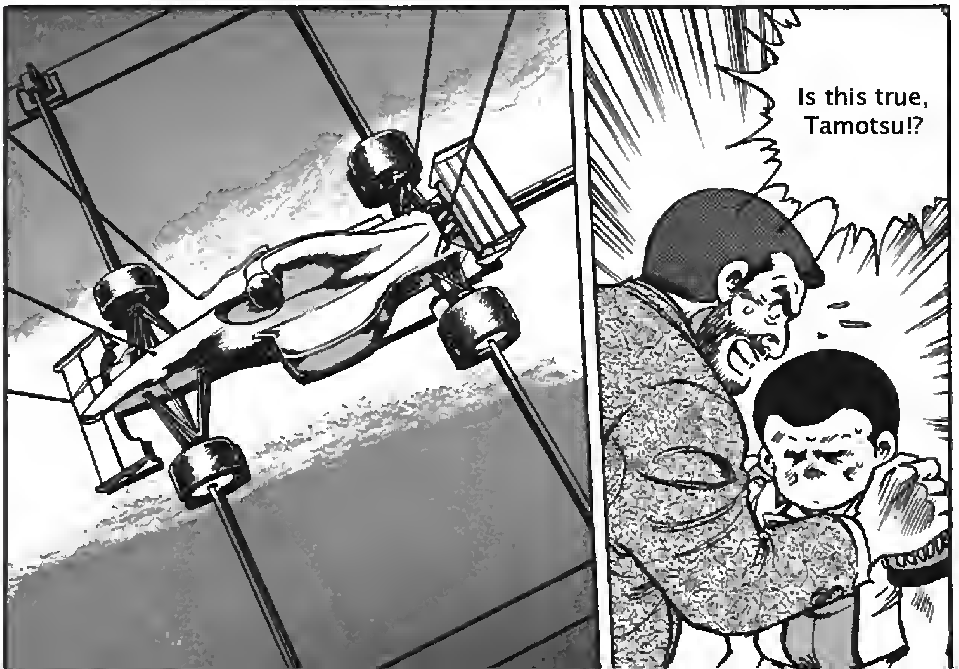

It's his first race and he's still running!
He's still in the race!
That's all that matters!
It doesn't matter. I don't care what place he's in.

Tamo-tsu!?
KACHIK カチャ
He's doing great considering it's just a makeshift team!
His car isn't perfect, either!
Like I said, all that matters is that he finishes...

I did it...
I did it, Orman...

0.002
Wh...
What!?
...reduce the air resistance against the body to 0.002!
These are just numbers I got from the model, but...
...I've managed to...
SILK

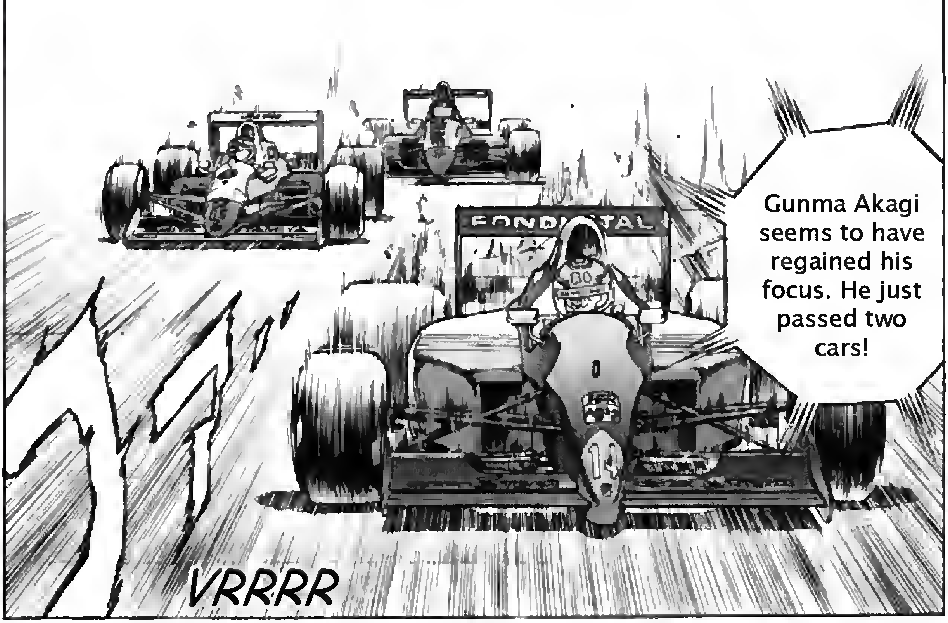
It's basically a needle with tires attached, flying through the air...
Plus, it responds flexibly to every speed range.

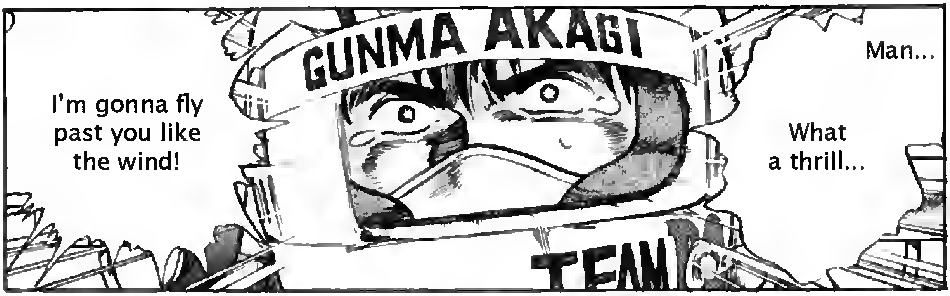

Is this true, Tamotsu!?

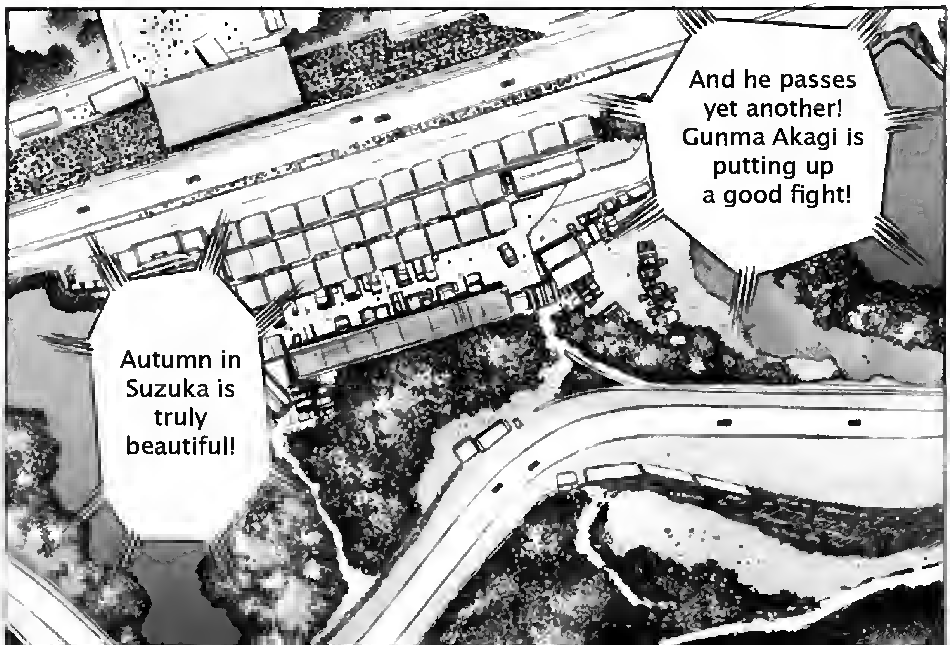
...but it could also put an end to the future of our team!
It's just that... this dolphin paint...
And... and...
...might help Gunma realize his dream...

It's just that... this dolphin paint...
...might help Gunma realize his dream...

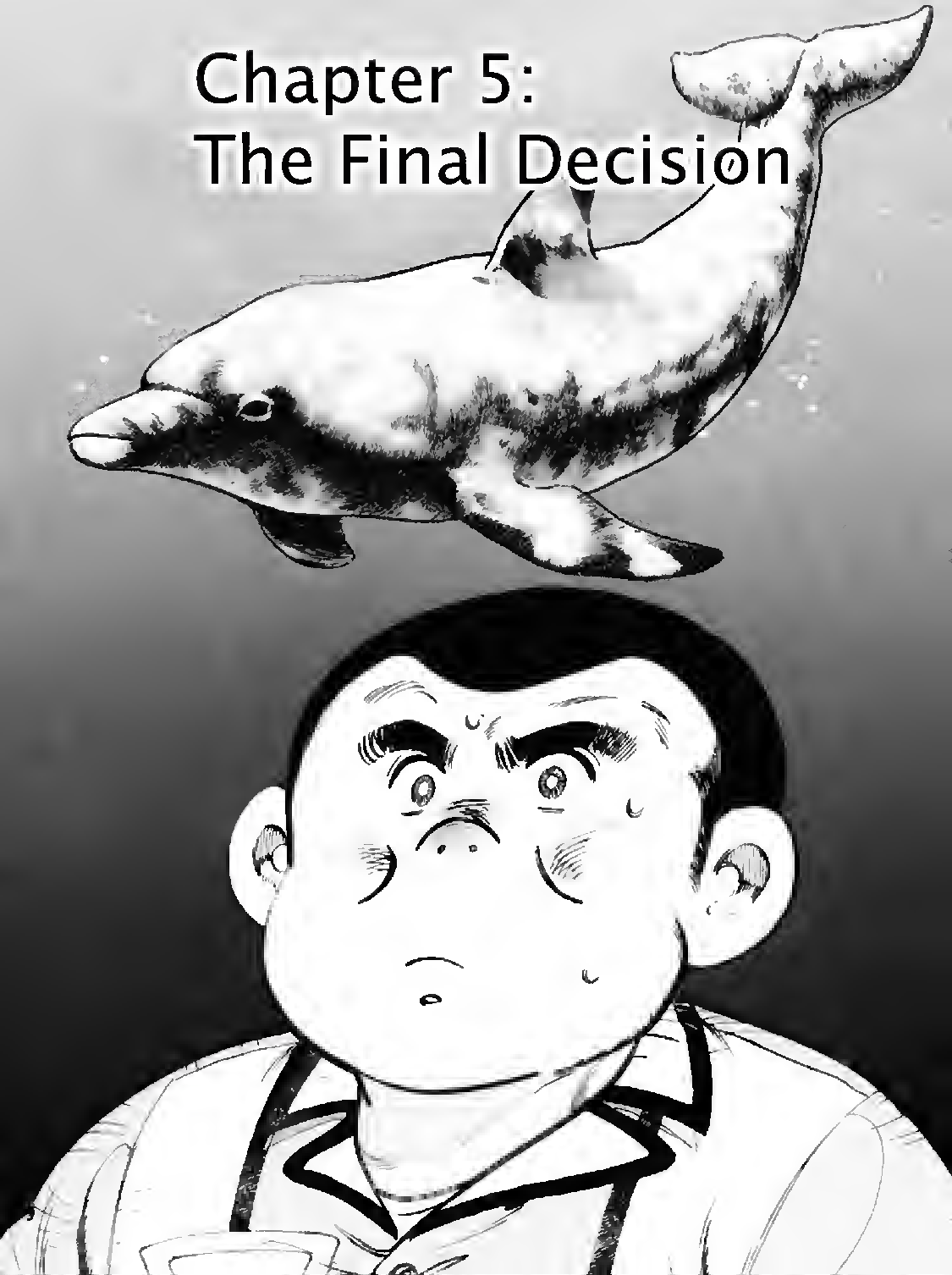
...but it could also put an end to the future of our team!
And... and...


Gunma Akagi seems to have regained his focus. He just passed two cars!
VRRRR

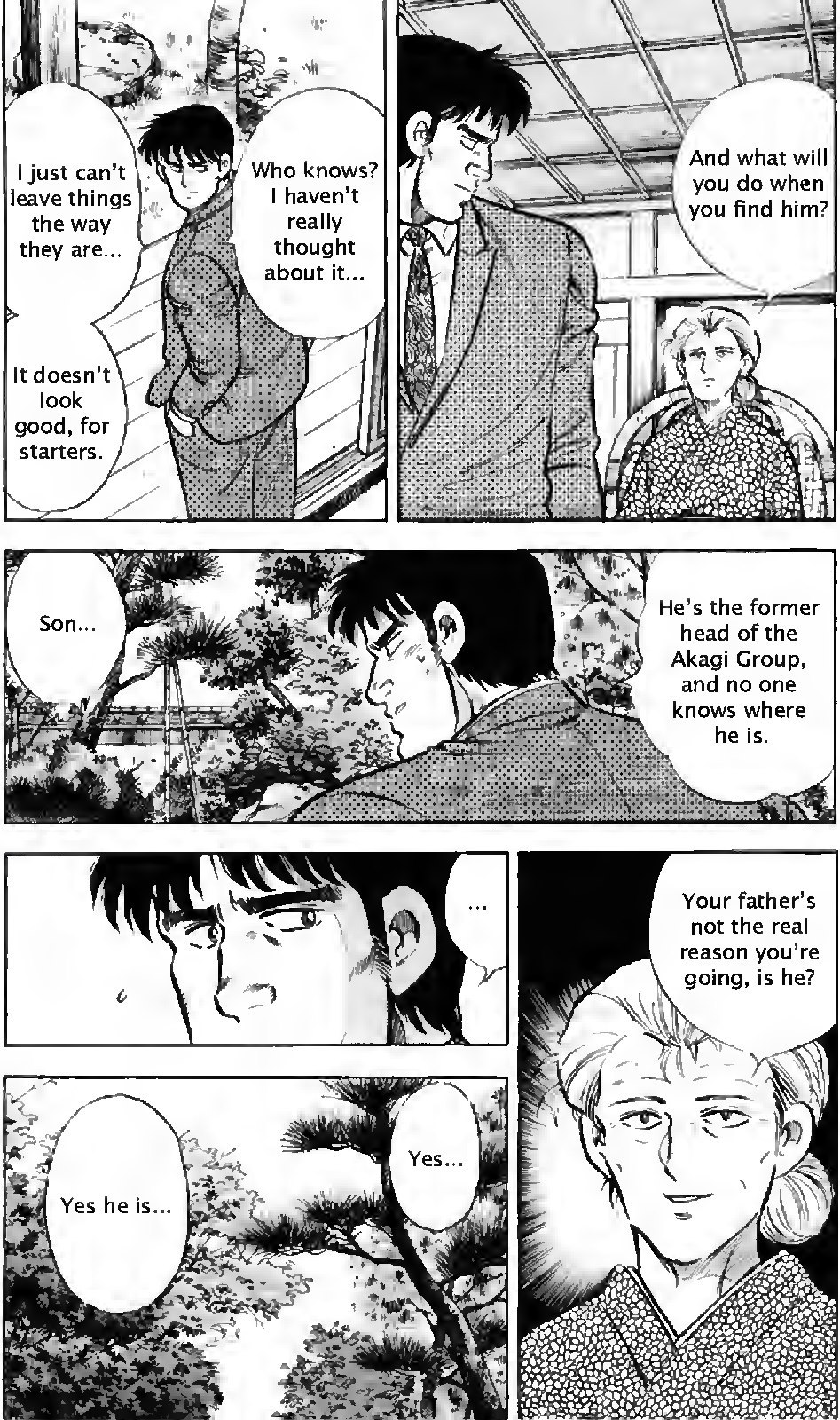

GUNMA AKAGI
I'm gonna fly past you like the wind!
Man...
What a thrill...
TEAM


And he passes yet another! Gunma Akagi is putting up a good fight!
Autumn in Suzuka is truly beautiful!

Chapter 5:
The Final Decision

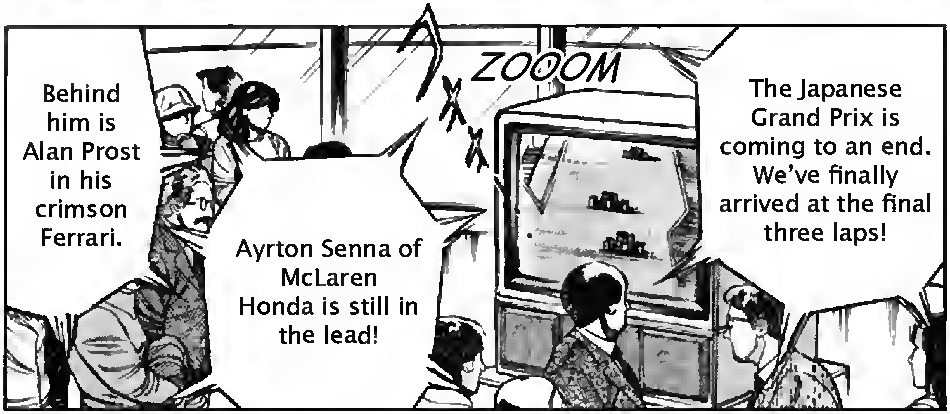


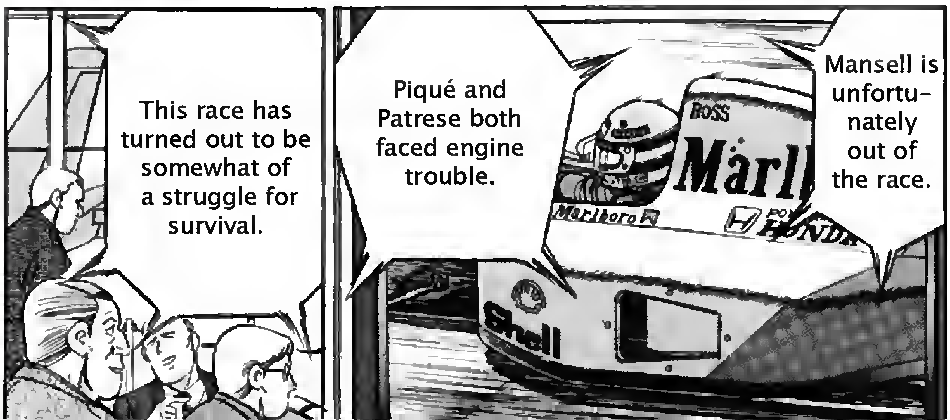
Yeah, I am, Mom...
…
You're really set on finding your father, aren't you?

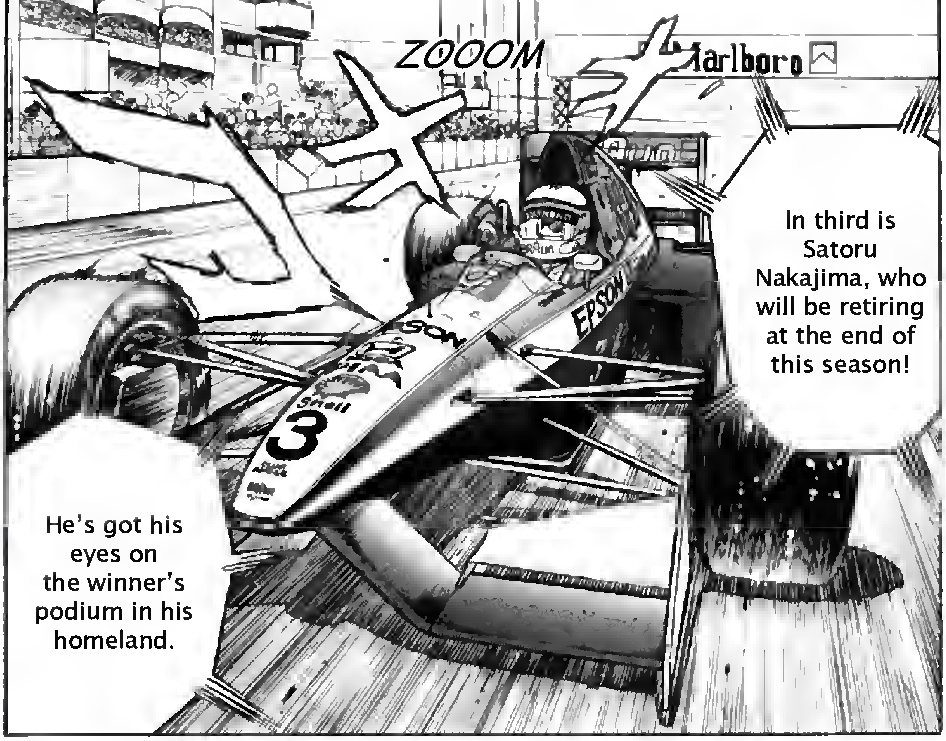

I just can't leave things the way they are...
Who knows? I haven't really thought about it...
It doesn't look good, for starters.
And what will you do when you find him?
Son...
He's the former head of the Akagi Group, and no one knows where he is.
...
Your father's not the real reason you're going, is he?
Yes...
Yes he is...

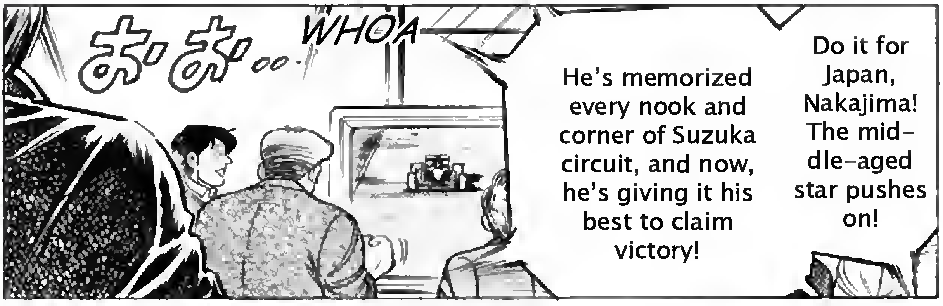
Yes. I'm guess-ing...
I see.
It'll be a long trip, won't it?
They'll be fine without me...
Business is good.
Who's going to look after the com-pany?
From Yuma?
A call from Master Yuma, ma'am...
Where are you now, anyway?
Shoma? Shoma left just a moment ago.
I'm getting by.
This is your mother speak-ing...

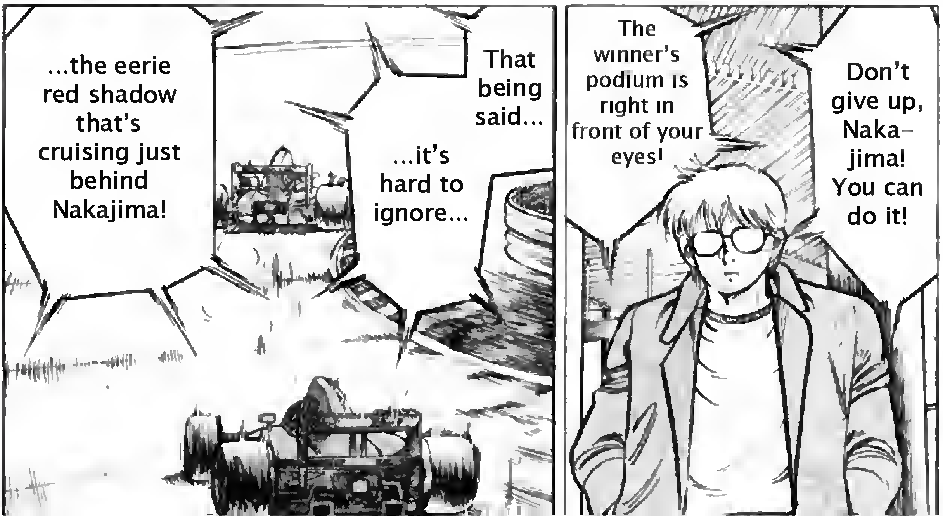
新東京国際空港
NEW TOKYO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

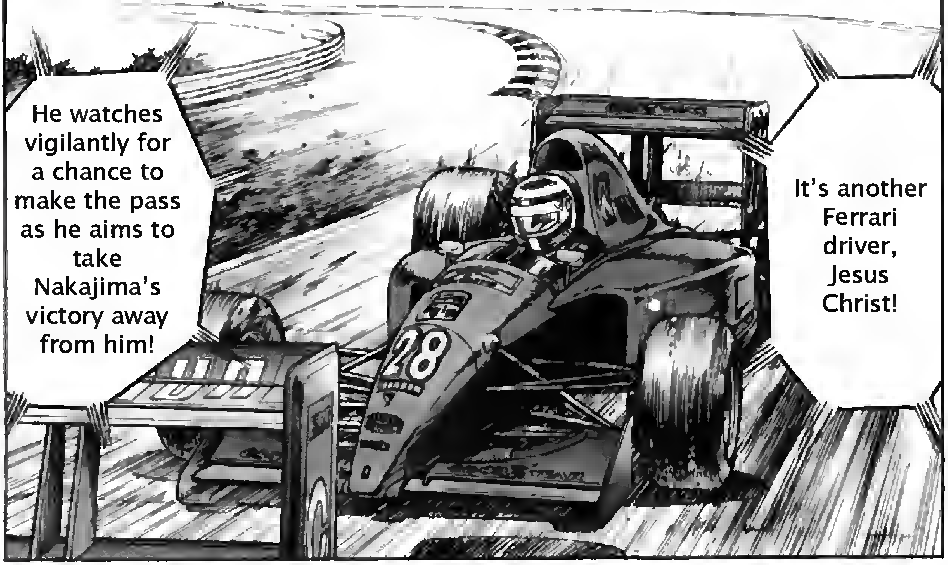

ZOOOM
Behind him is Alan Prost in his crimson Ferrari.
Ayrton Senna of McLaren Honda is still in the lead!
The Japanese Grand Prix is coming to an end. We've finally arrived at the final three laps!

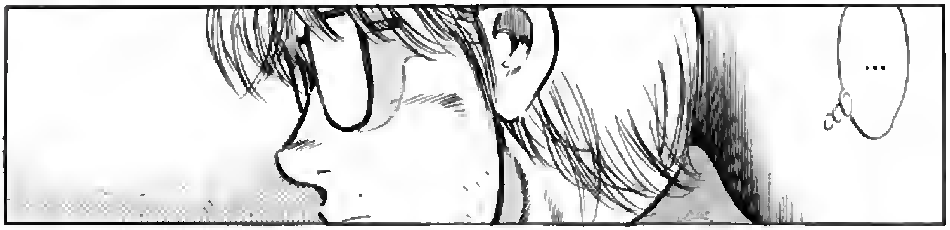

This race has turned out to be somewhat of a struggle for survival.
Piqué and Patrese both faced engine trouble.
Mansell is unfortunately out of the race.
BOSS
Marlboro
HONDA
Shell


ZOOOM
Marlboro
EPSON
Shell
3
He's got his eyes on the winner's podium in his homeland.
In third is Satoru Nakajima, who will be retiring at the end of this season!

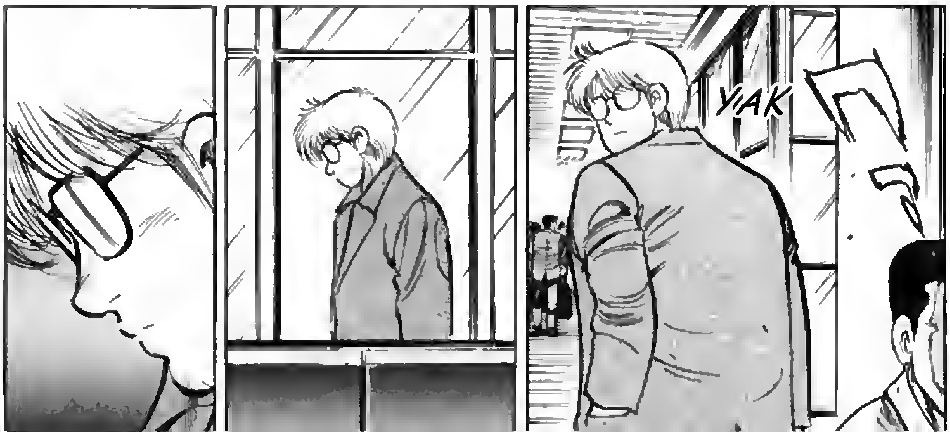

WHOA
He's memorized every nook and corner of Suzuka circuit, and now, he's giving it his best to claim victory!
Do it for Japan, Nakajima! The middle-aged star pushes on!

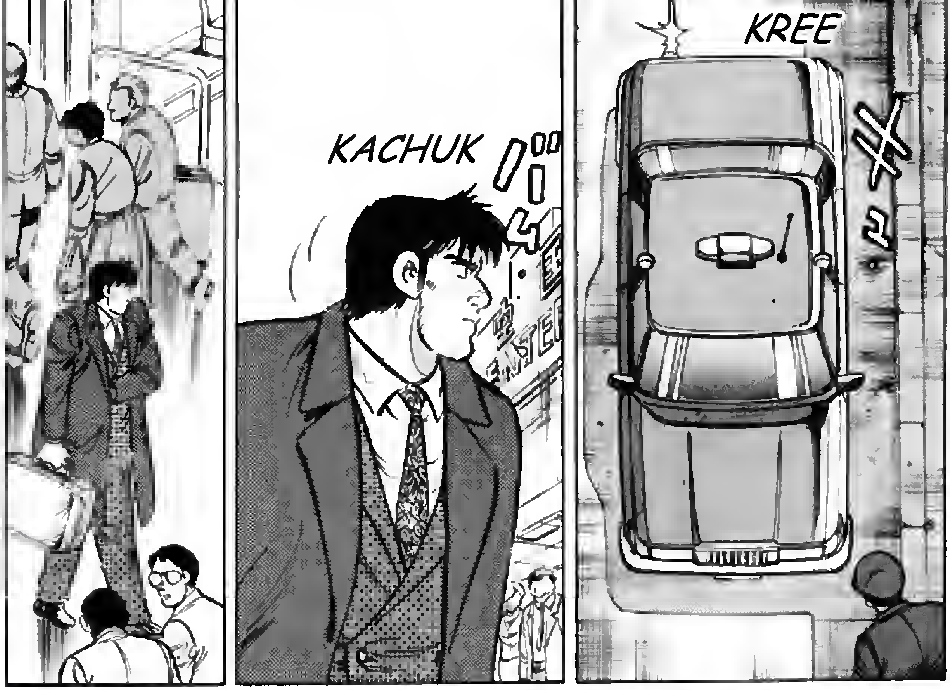

...the eerie red shadow that's cruising just behind Nakajima!
That being said...
...it's hard to ignore...
The winner's podium is right in front of your eyes!
Don't give up, Nakajima! You can do it!

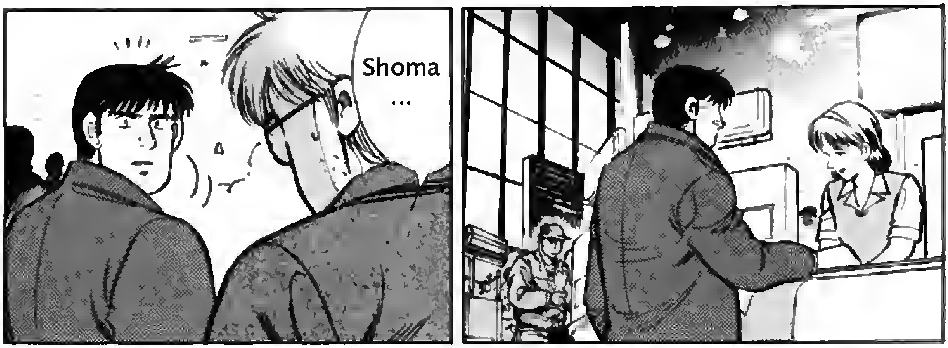

He watches vigilantly for a chance to make the pass as he aims to take Nakajima's victory away from him!
It's another Ferrari driver, Jesus Christ!

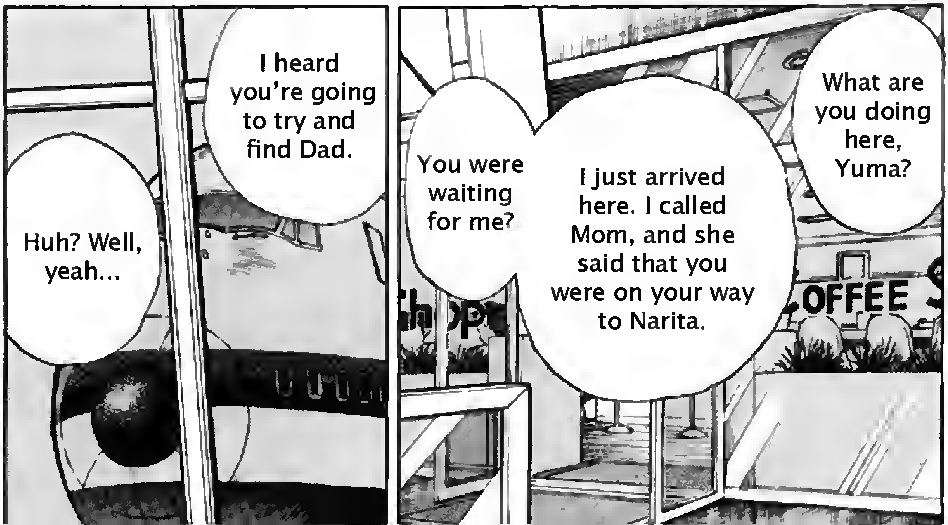

...

YAK


YAK

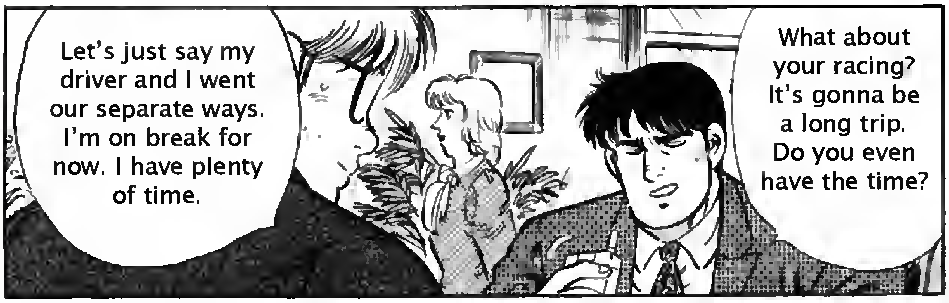

KACHUK
KREE

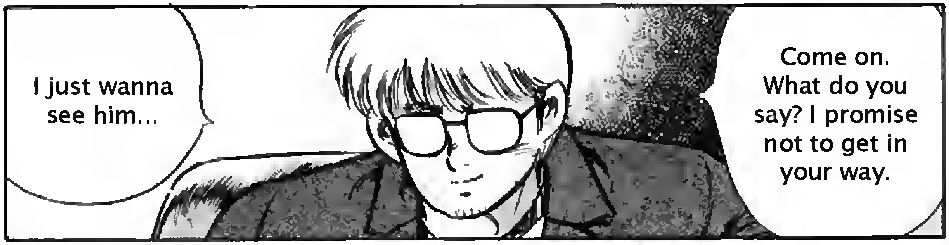

Shoma
...

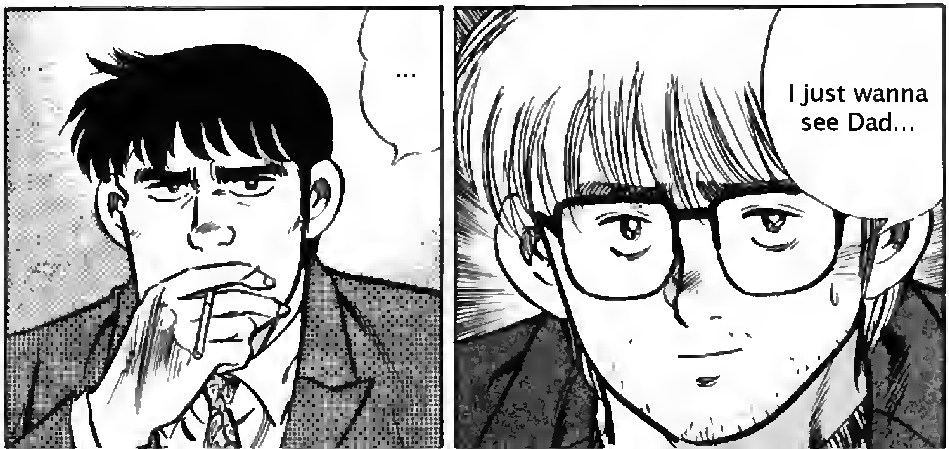

I heard you're going to try and find Dad.
Huh? Well, yeah...
You were waiting for me?
I just arrived here. I called Mom, and she said that you were on your way to Narita.
What are you doing here, Yuma?
COFFEE

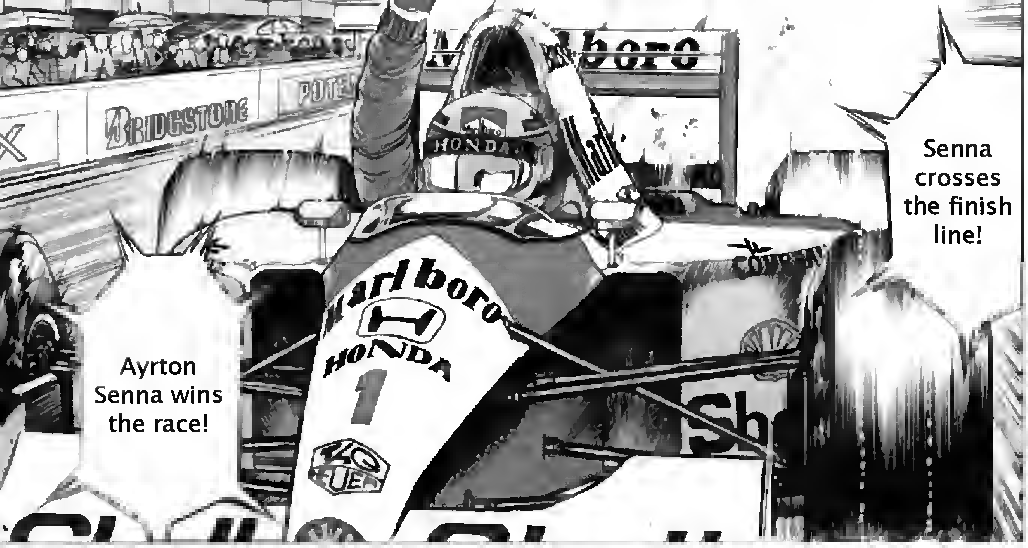
Shut your mouth.
It seems to me like you're trying to find your lover.
Hmm... I'm not convinced. It doesn't look that way to me.
And the person with that information... is it a woman?
Interesting.
So what if she is!?
!!
I know somebody who'll give me some information about Dad.
Yeah. Some idea, anyway.
Do you even have any idea where he is?
Yuri Toyota... The woman who had the evidence against Uncle Tatsu on tape...
There's nothing wrong with that. I was just asking.
Don't look so angry.
No. I told you I'm going to find Dad.
So you're going to visit her, huh?

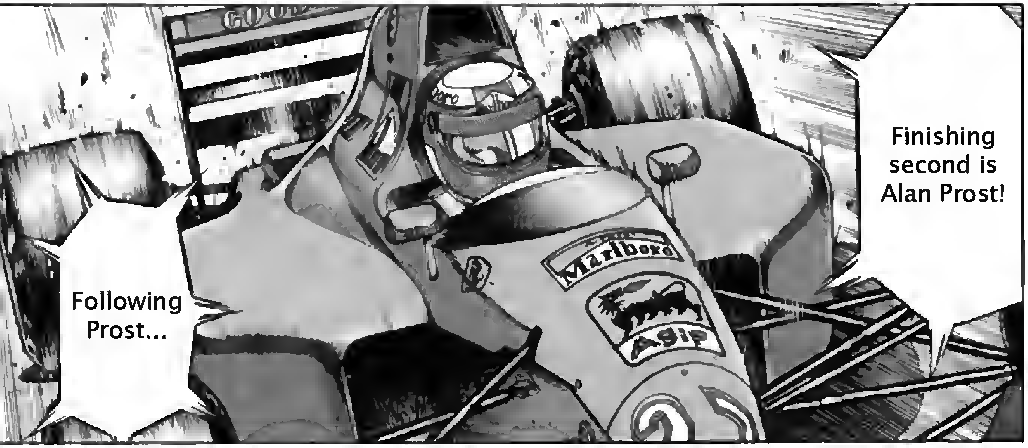
It's too late for you to get a ticket.
I'll wait for a seat to open.
Don't act like I'm such a burden.
I guess it doesn't matter. In any case, you're taking me with you.
What!?

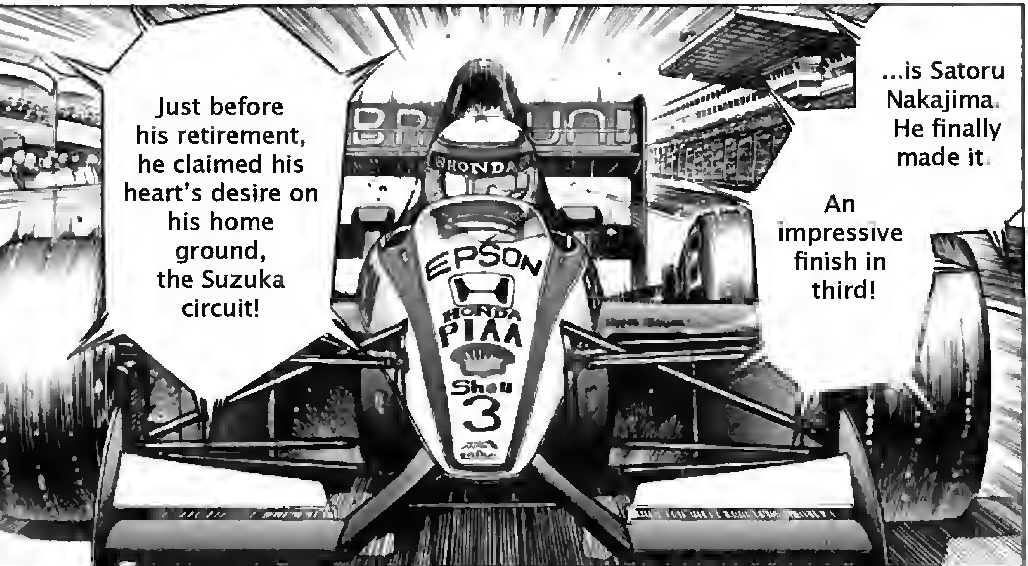

Let's just say my driver and I went our separate ways. I'm on break for now. I have plenty of time.
What about your racing? It's gonna be a long trip. Do you even have the time?

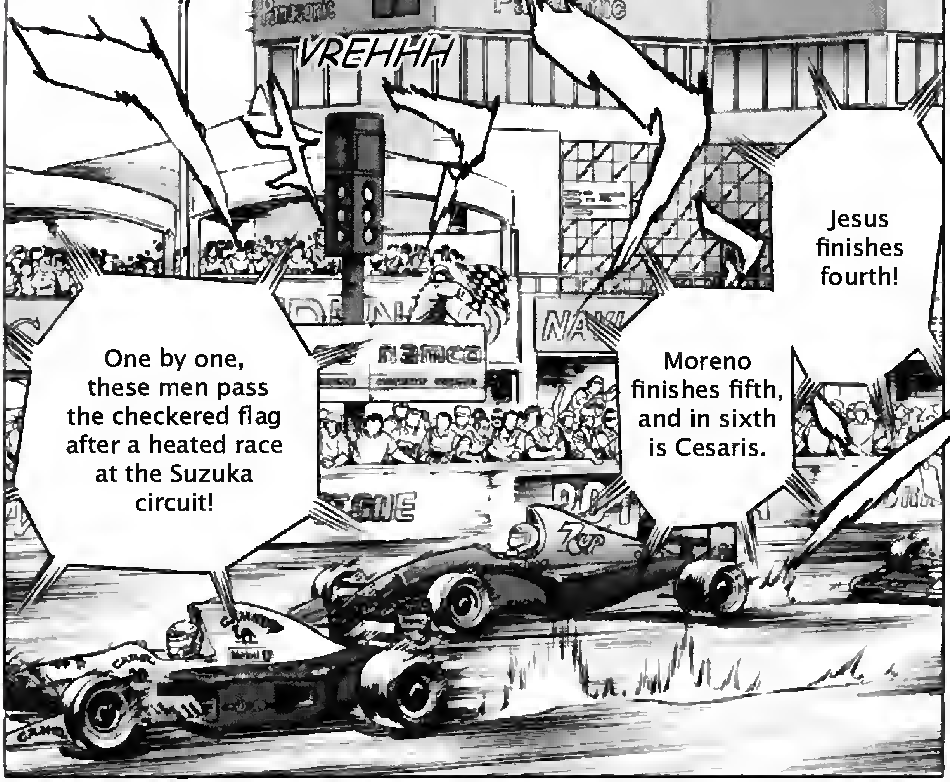

I just wanna see him...
Come on. What do you say? I promise not to get in your way.


...
I just wanna see Dad...

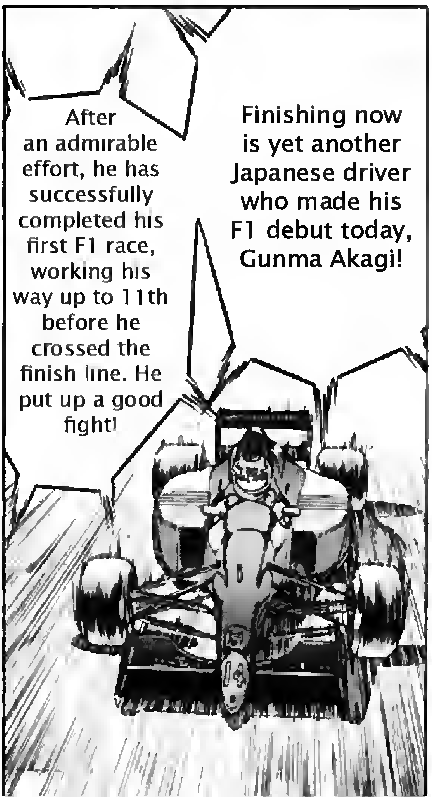

Ayrton Senna wins the race!
Senna crosses the finish line!
Marlboro
HONDA
1
BRIDGESTONE


Following Prost...
Finishing second is Alan Prost!
Marlboro
AGIP

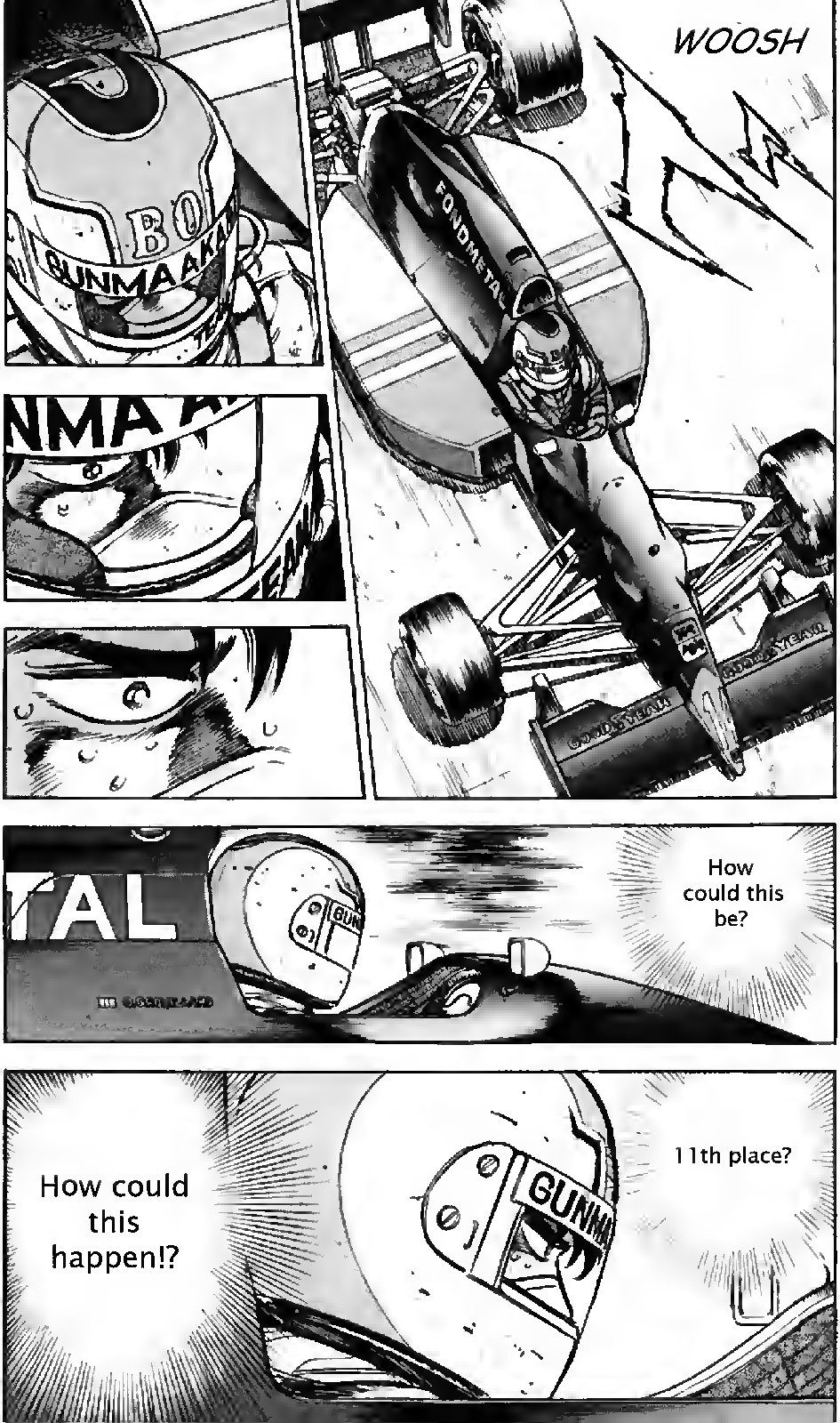

Just before his retirement, he claimed his heart's desire on his home ground, the Suzuka circuit!
...is Satoru Nakajima. He finally made it.
An impressive finish in third!
HONDA
EPSON
HONDA
PIAA
Shou
3

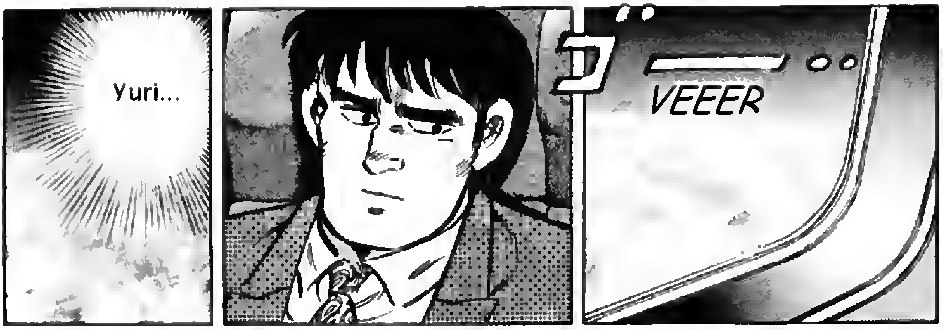

VREHHH
One by one, these men pass the checkered flag after a heated race at the Suzuka circuit!
Jesus finishes fourth!
Moreno finishes fifth, and in sixth is Cesaris.

WOOSH

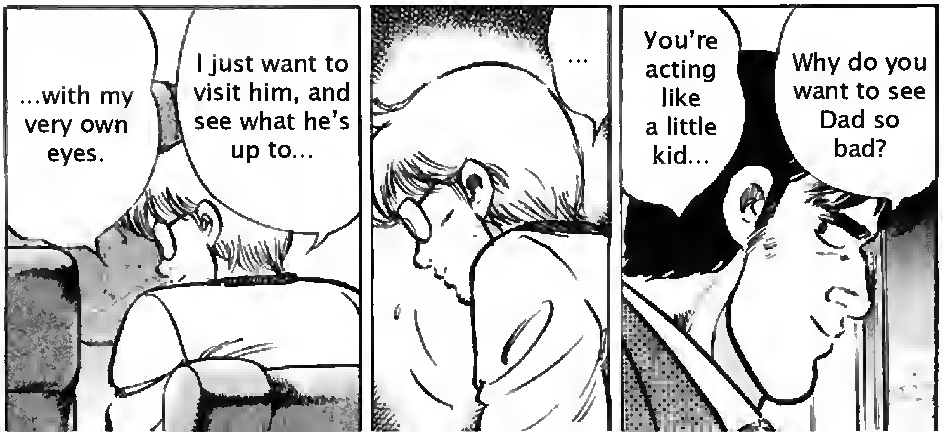

After an admirable effort, he has successfully completed his first F1 race, working his way up to 11th before he crossed the finish line. He put up a good fight!
Finishing now is yet another Japanese driver who made his F1 debut today, Gunma Akagi!

Don't torture yourself! You did fine!


WOOSH
How could this be?
How could this happen!?
11th place?


Yuri...
VEEER

What's going on with you?
11th place, huh?


...with my very own eyes.
I just want to visit him, and see what he's up to...
...
You're acting like a little kid...
Why do you want to see Dad so bad?

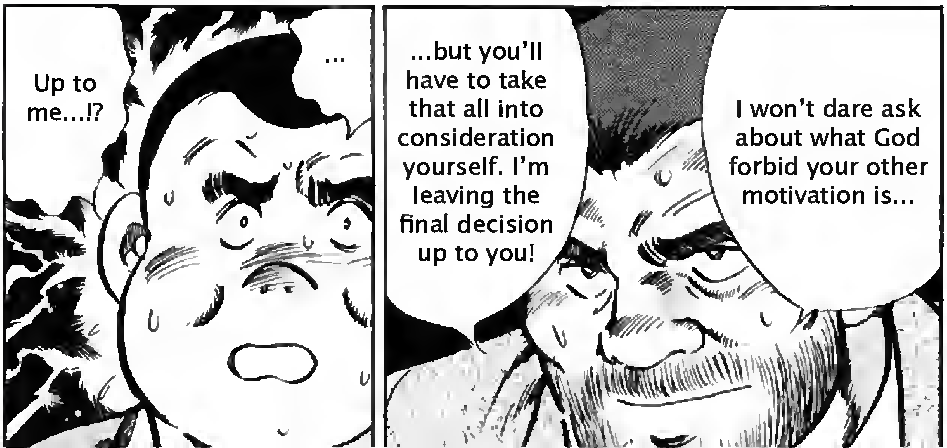
I wonder what his life is like these days.
He ran off like a dog with his tail in between his legs.
His aspirations were never realized...
He lost the election, and things didn't go his way with the Akagi group.
...just the sons of a loser.
I wonder if we're...
...
... the sons of a loser...
I sup-pose we are...
YAK
YAK
An interview, please!

MURMUR
I got nothin' to say.
I got nothin'...
Now I'm sure you have some thoughts to share!
MURMUR
MURMUR
How was your very first F1 race? Congratulations on finishing!
How did it feel to race with the world's top drivers? How did it feel when you were lapped?
What do you think about Senna? Jesus is a lot faster now, don't you think?
Do you think that was the best you could do?
YAK
YAK
MURMUR
Are you frustrated? Annoyed?
Do you feel ready for your next F1 race, or do you feel like giving up?
I'm sorry, could you repeat that? I couldn't hear...
Excuse me?
MURMUR
YAK
...you're freakin' hilarious, don't you.
You think ...

RUB
なぜ…
ピタ。
PAT
そ〜
SHIVER
軍馬
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR

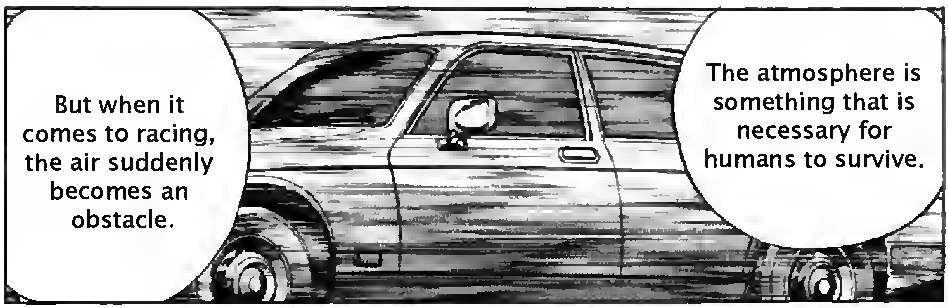
!!
I've concluded...
...that I'm gonna give you the OK on this.

Just one thing.
...I still think it's worth a shot.
Even if the car you're trying to build ends up closing the gates on the future of our team...

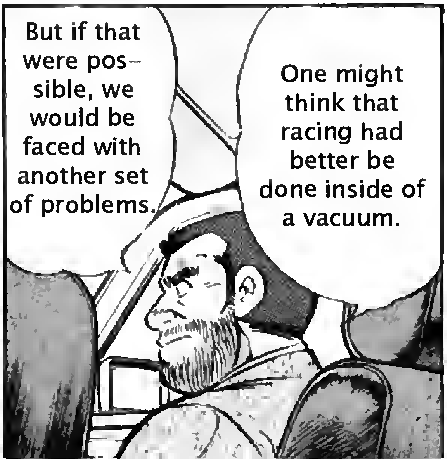

Up to me...!?
...
...but you'll have to take that all into consideration yourself. I'm leaving the final decision up to you!
I won't dare ask about what God forbid your other motivation is...

Chapter 6: Resistance

When any object moves, it is faced with resistance.


But when it comes to racing, the air suddenly becomes an obstacle.
The atmosphere is something that is necessary for humans to survive.

You'd have to have a tank of compressed air attached to your car.
Without air, you have no downforce.


But if that were possible, we would be faced with another set of problems.
One might think that racing had better be done inside of a vacuum.

But mankind will never stop running.
Even if it means making an enemy out of our kind friend.
The air will always be a kind friend to mankind.
Of course, we wouldn't even be thinking about this if we didn't have a desire to go fast.

That is the nature of mankind's creation, the one we call civilization. Whether that is something absurd or something wonderful is up the individual.
We want the air to remain our friend, yet we try to command it. We are trying to find a compromise with our atmosphere, in a sense.
Are you even listening?

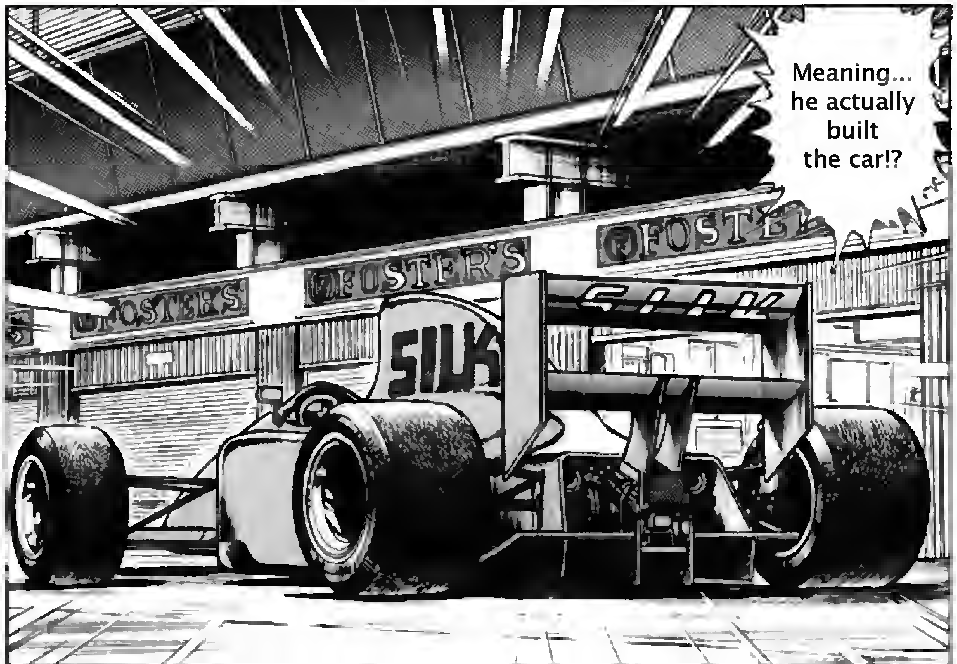
We think, we devise, we build, we destroy, and we rebuild, coming up with new methods along the way.
Humans differ from other animals in that they are not satisfied the way they are.

The fact is, to deny that nature would be to deny the nature of mankind itself.
That being said, the true nature of civilization is something no one can deny.

Yes, there are foolish civilizations. Yes, there is such a thing as foolish progress. In these cases, a foolish kind of compromise is at fault.
KRRRR
This is something that certain kinds of naturalists and ecologists have a problem with.They don't understand this fact.

You're trying to tell me that Tamotsu came up with a kind of compromise that isn't foolish?
Imagine a race that takes place in a vacuum with tanks of compressed air attached to every car for the sole purpose of increasing aerodynamics... That would look foolish to anyone.

Have a look!?
Yeah. Excuse the long preamble. The reason we returned to England in such a hurry is that I wanted you to have a look.


Meaning... he actually built the car!?
FOSTER'S
SILK

CHIK
Just one thing. I left the final decision of whether or not we use the car up to Tamotsu.
Shell oils
Yeah. It's not 100% complete, but we wouldn't get anywhere if all we had was a model.
To Tamotsu ...?
Tamotsu, explain it to him.
It doesn't really look any different from your last build...
This is it!?

Once the computer receives that data, the computer converts it into an electrical current, which is then sent to the piezoelectric devices in the paint.
Basically, the sensor registers your speed range, and sends that data to the computer.
The biggest change I made on this car is the paint.
The paint!?
SILK
SILK
Yup. This paint ain't no ordinary paint.
To put it simply, there are piezoelectric devices mixed in with the paint.
These devices are connected to a computer. The computer receives data from sensors that are dotted all around the body.
All right, Tamotsu. Stop.
These vibrations negate the traverse reflection waves that are produced at the side of the body, thereby getting rid of air turbulence...
When that happens, the paint begins to vibrate slightly.

The biggest change I made on this car is the paint.
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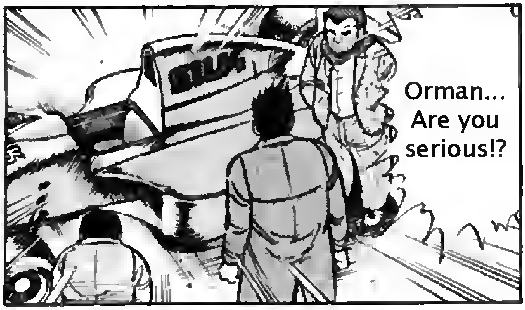
When that happens, the paint begins to vibrate slightly.
These vibrations negate the traverse reflection waves that are produced at the side of the body, thereby getting rid of air turbulence...
All right, Tamotsu. Stop.

That's right!
...has high air resistance, because it has skin like a living creature!?
Skip the complicated stuff. Are you telling me that this car here...
W... What!?
It's no joke. We tested it out, and the measure-ments have shown that air resistance was at 0.002.
You've got to be kidding me...
...did you build here!?
FWOOM
FWOOOM
What kind of mon-ster...
It's like a needle with tires piercing through the wind, so to speak.
0.002...

...this beast here would have a 10 millisecond advantage over a McLaren-Honda here at Silverstone.
I can't say for sure until we test it out on the track, but if we tune that shoddy engine to the limit...

Loads of them...
But there are problems, too.

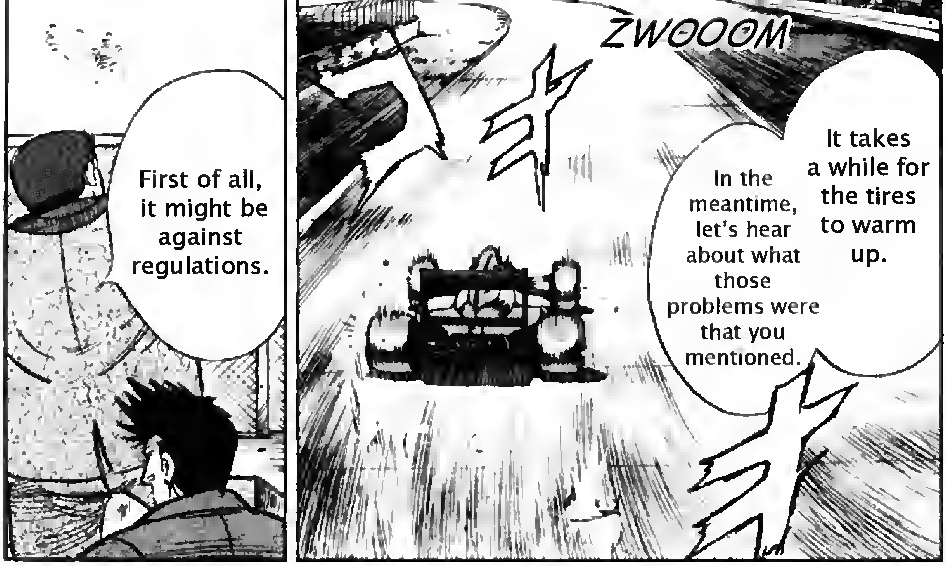

Orman... Are you serious!?

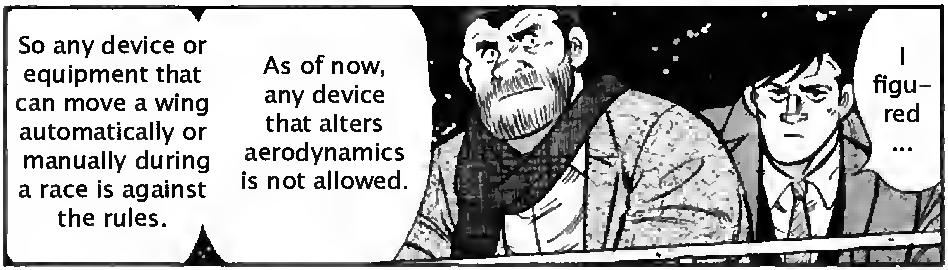
All right, let's do it.

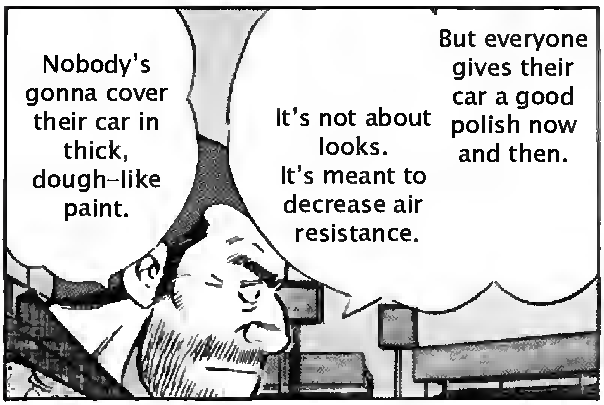
I won't believe it until I see it for myself...

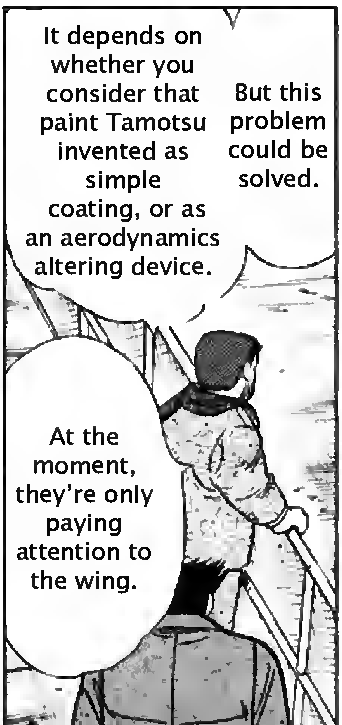
We'll get to that later. First, I gotta see this thing run!

Yeah... Fine.
The driver is a research student at the school. Don't expect good time.
VRRRROOO
BRAH BHRAH BRAH


First of all, it might be against regulations.
ZWOOOM
In the meantime, let's hear about what those problems were that you mentioned.
It takes a while for the tires to warm up.

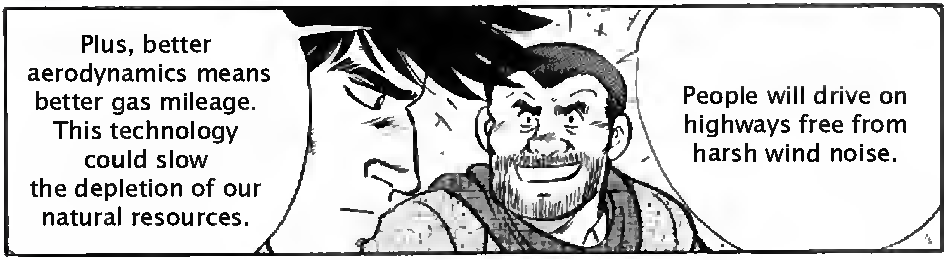

So any device or equipment that can move a wing automatically or manually during a race is against the rules.
As of now, any device that alters aerodynamics is not allowed.
I figured ...


Nobody's gonna cover their car in thick, dough-like paint.
It's not about looks. It's meant to decrease air resistance.
But everyone gives their car a good polish now and then.

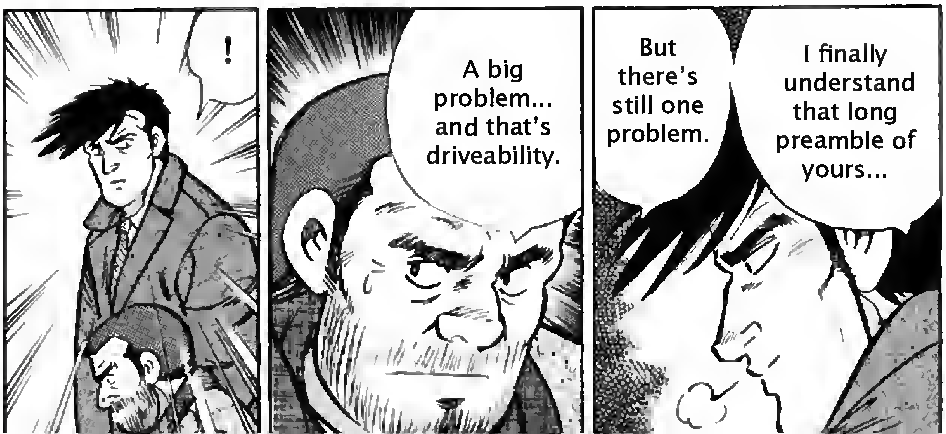

It depends on whether you consider that paint Tamotsu invented as simple coating, or as an aerodynamics altering device.
But this problem could be solved.
At the moment, they're only paying attention to the wing.

So... As long as we consider this dolphin paint to be just paint...
At the end of the day, nobody suspects that a mirror finish has anything to do with aerodynamics.

This revolutionary invention will have a huge impact on the whole concept of motorization.
Maybe. But then they'd be thwarting technological advancement.
Heh. I doubt those FIA goons will stay quiet about this.
...we're in the clear.


Plus, better aerodynamics means better gas mileage. This technology could slow the depletion of our natural resources.
People will drive on highways free from harsh wind noise.

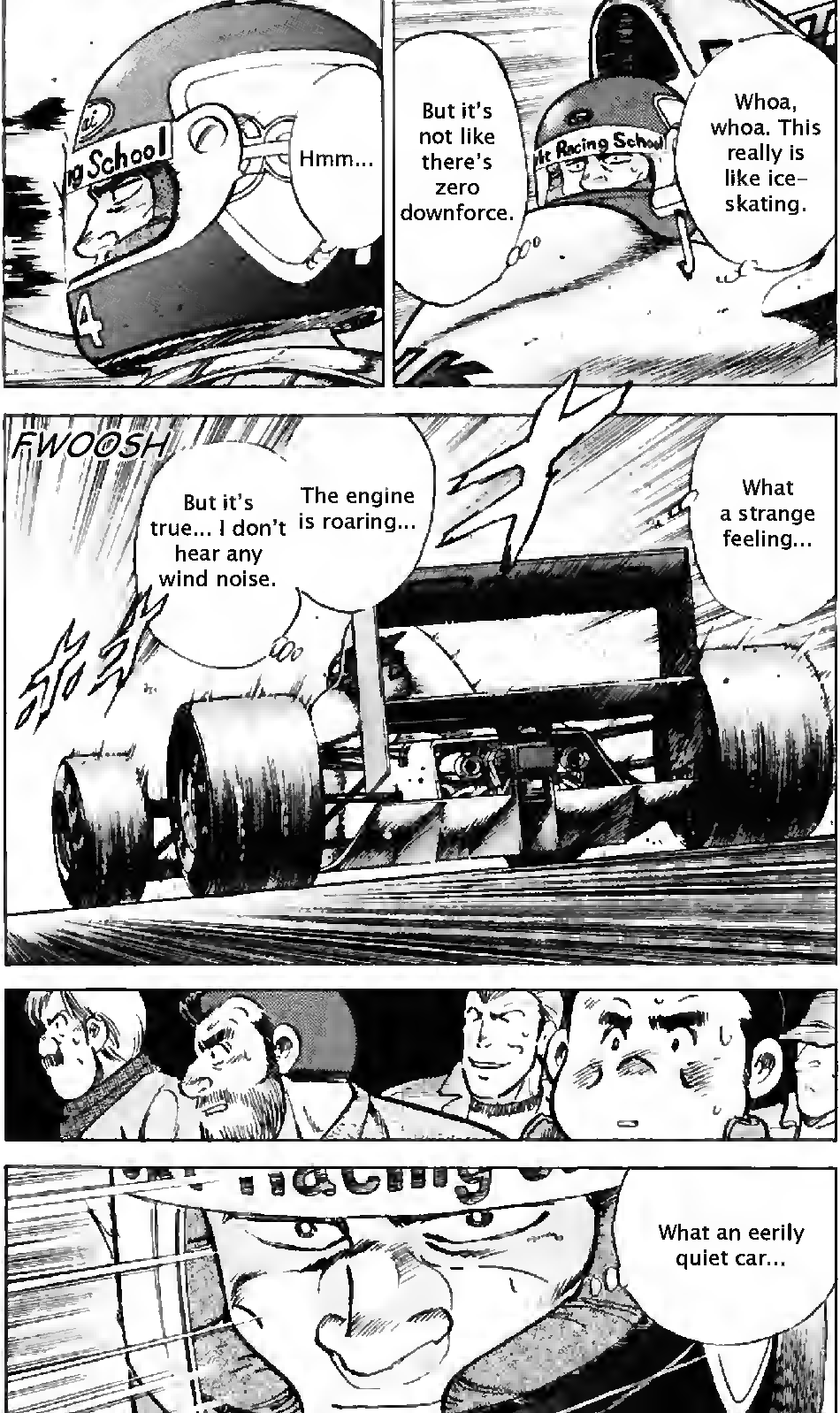
Yes. This is a smart form of progress for our civilization. There must be a road to peaceful coexistence between mankind and the earth for as long as humans deem civilization necessary.
So this is our form of "compromise" with our atmosphere?


!
A big problem... and that's driveability.
But there's still one problem.
I finally understand that long preamble of yours...

How was it!?
Hey, he's back!
VRRRM
There's no downforce on this thing whatsoever! It's like trying to ice-skate at high speed! Get me off this thing!
Umm... He says it's too freaky to drive.
...
I was afraid of that.
Heh.
What!?
All right. Let me take the wheel.
SWF

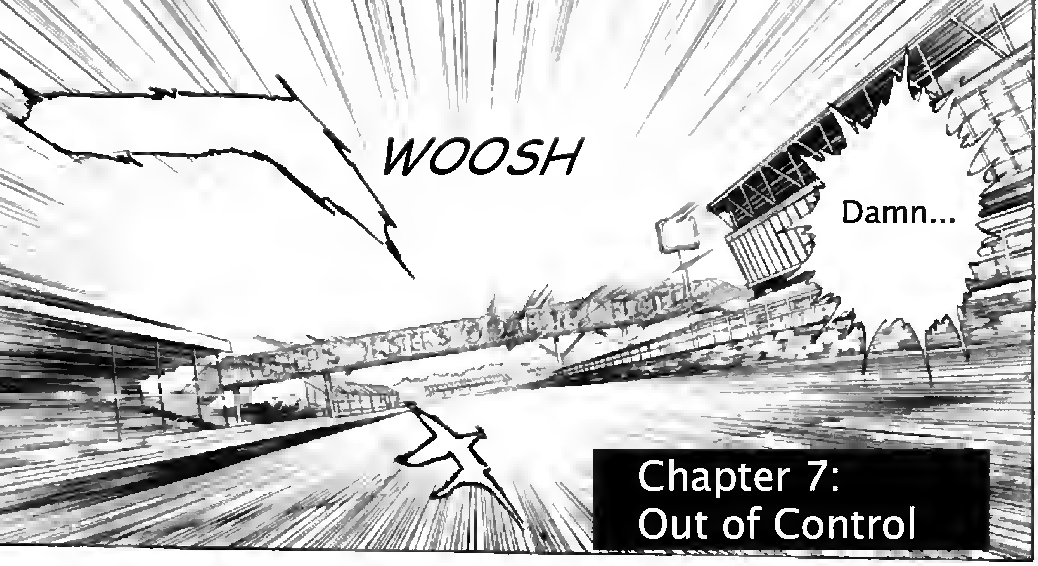
You can't do it! You're not young anymore! Let me drive it! Back in the day, I was...
Come on. I may not look it, but I used to be a test driver for Honda's F1 team.
You sure about this, Kuroi!?
...
Don't worry. I just want to check it out for myself. I won't try anything stupid.
And how are you planning on fitting that belly of yours in the cockpit?
PAT
ZOOM

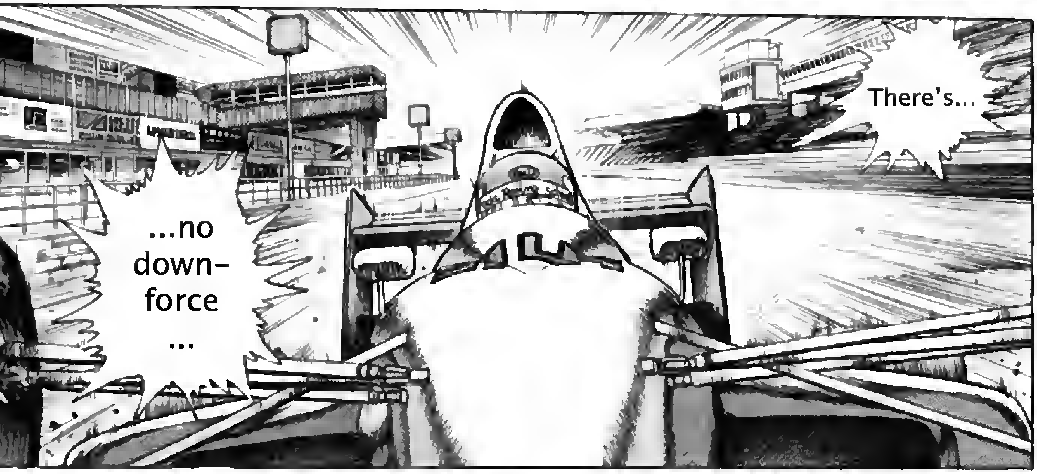
BRAH
BRAH
WOOSH
VRR VRR VRRR
BRAH

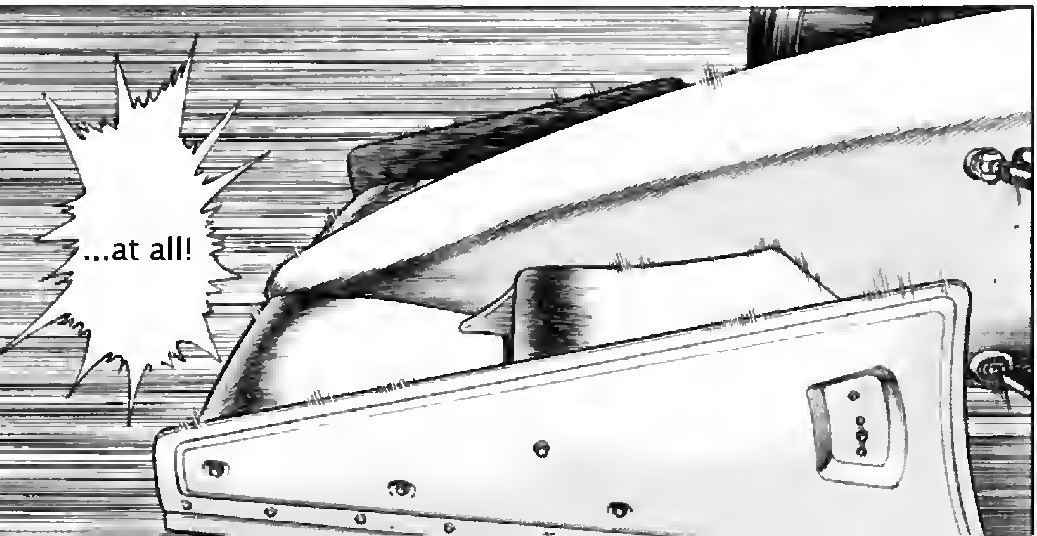

Hmm...
But it's not like there's zero downforce.
Whoa, whoa. This really is like ice-skating.
FWOOSH
But it's true... I don't hear any wind noise.
The engine is roaring...
What a strange feeling...
What an eerily quiet car...

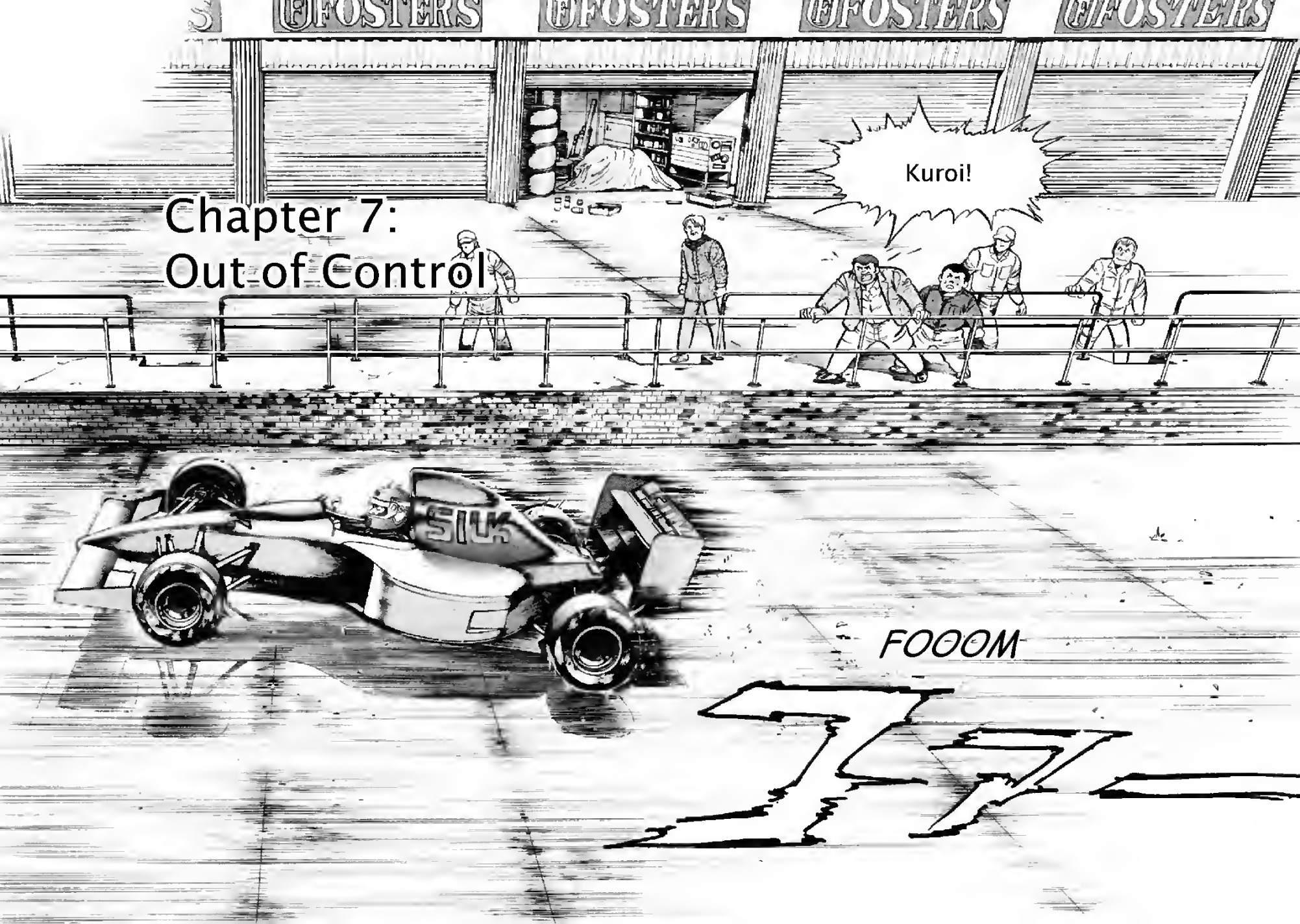
SHHHOOM
...is pretty fun...
Huh... This car...
Don't drive too fast, Kuroi!
All right. I'm gonna bring the speed up little by little.
14

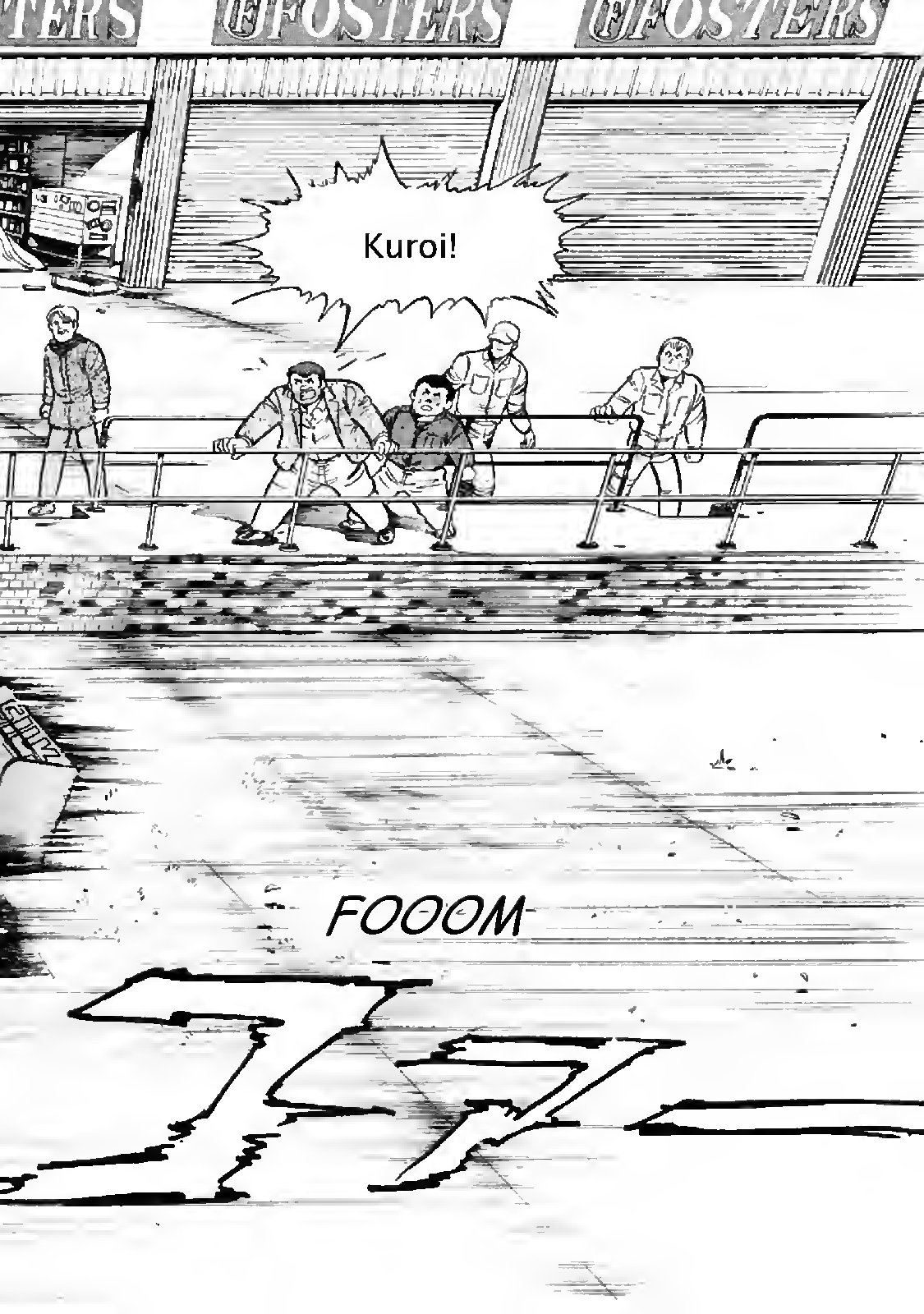
FWOOSH
Huh!?

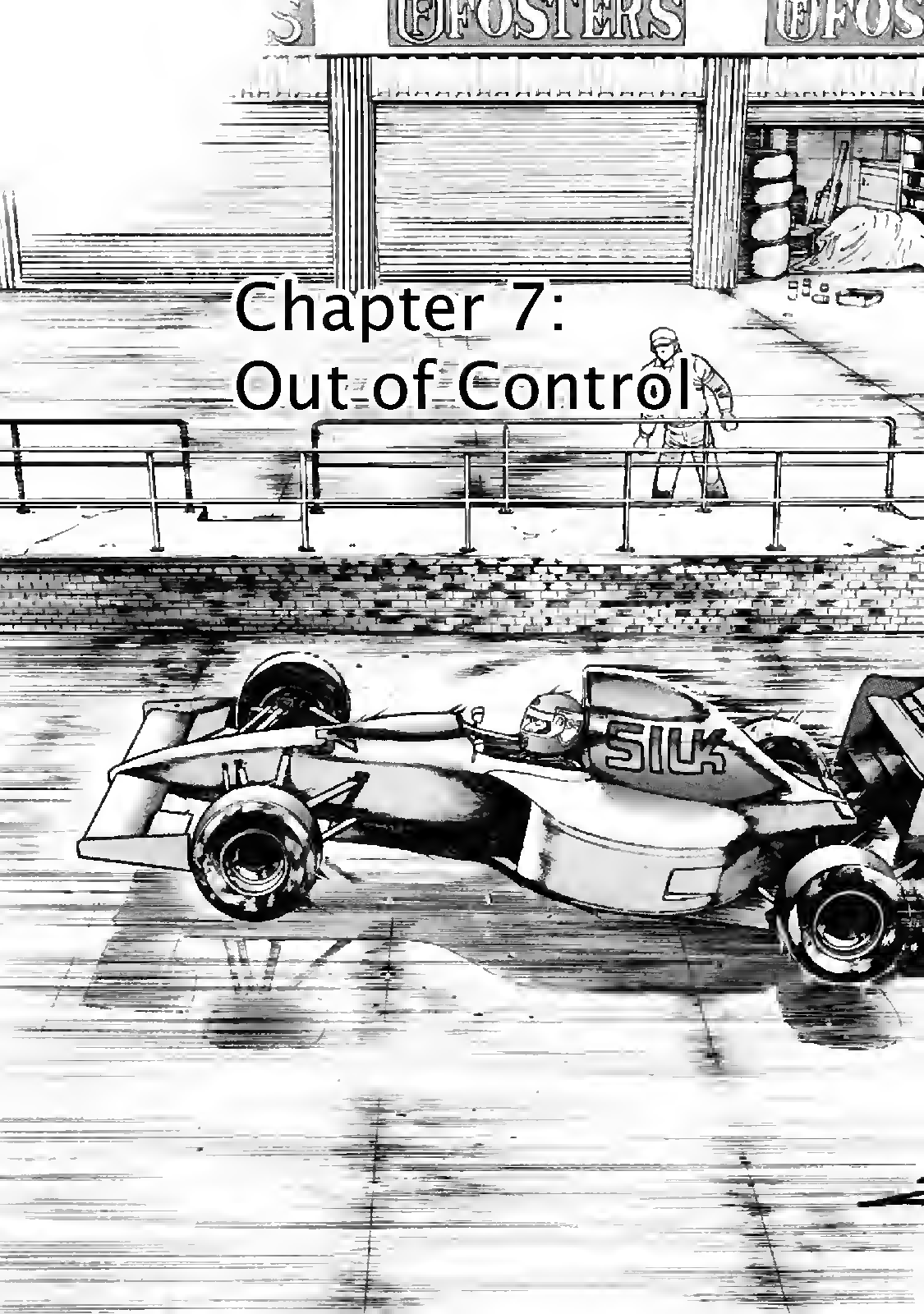

WOOSH
Damn...
Chapter 7:
Out of Control


There's...
...no down-force ...

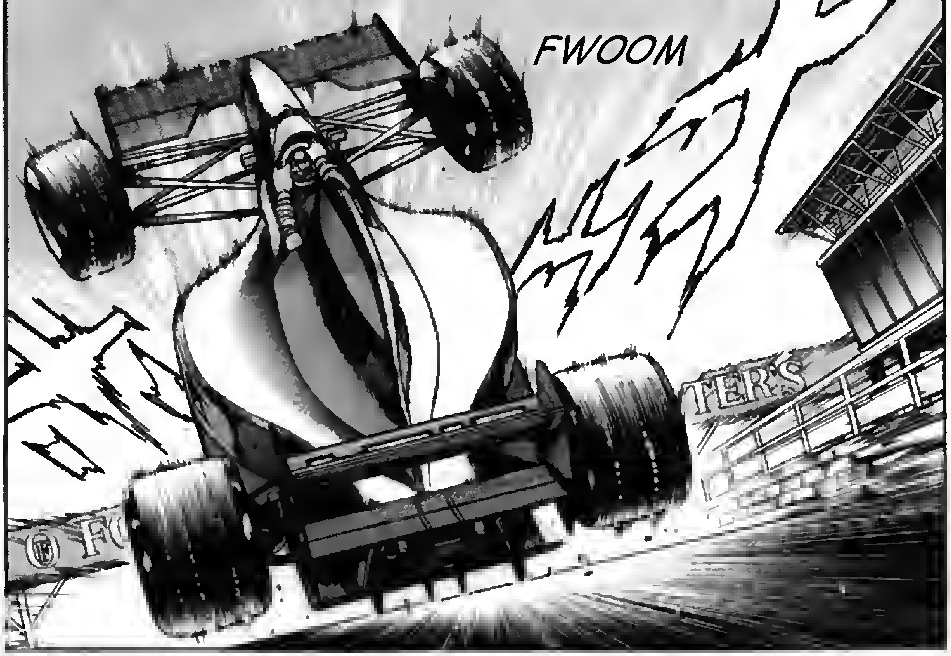

...at all!


FOSTERS
FOSTERS
FOSTERS
FOSTERS
Kuroi!
Chapter 7:
Out of Control
SIUK
FOOOM

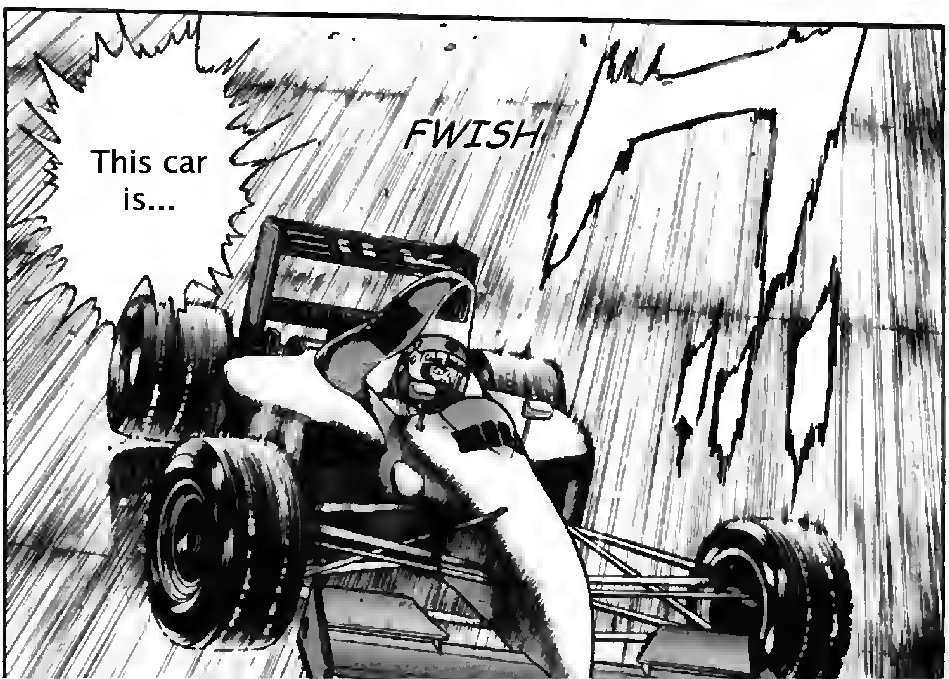

TERS
FOSTERS
FOSTERS
Kuroi!
FOOOM

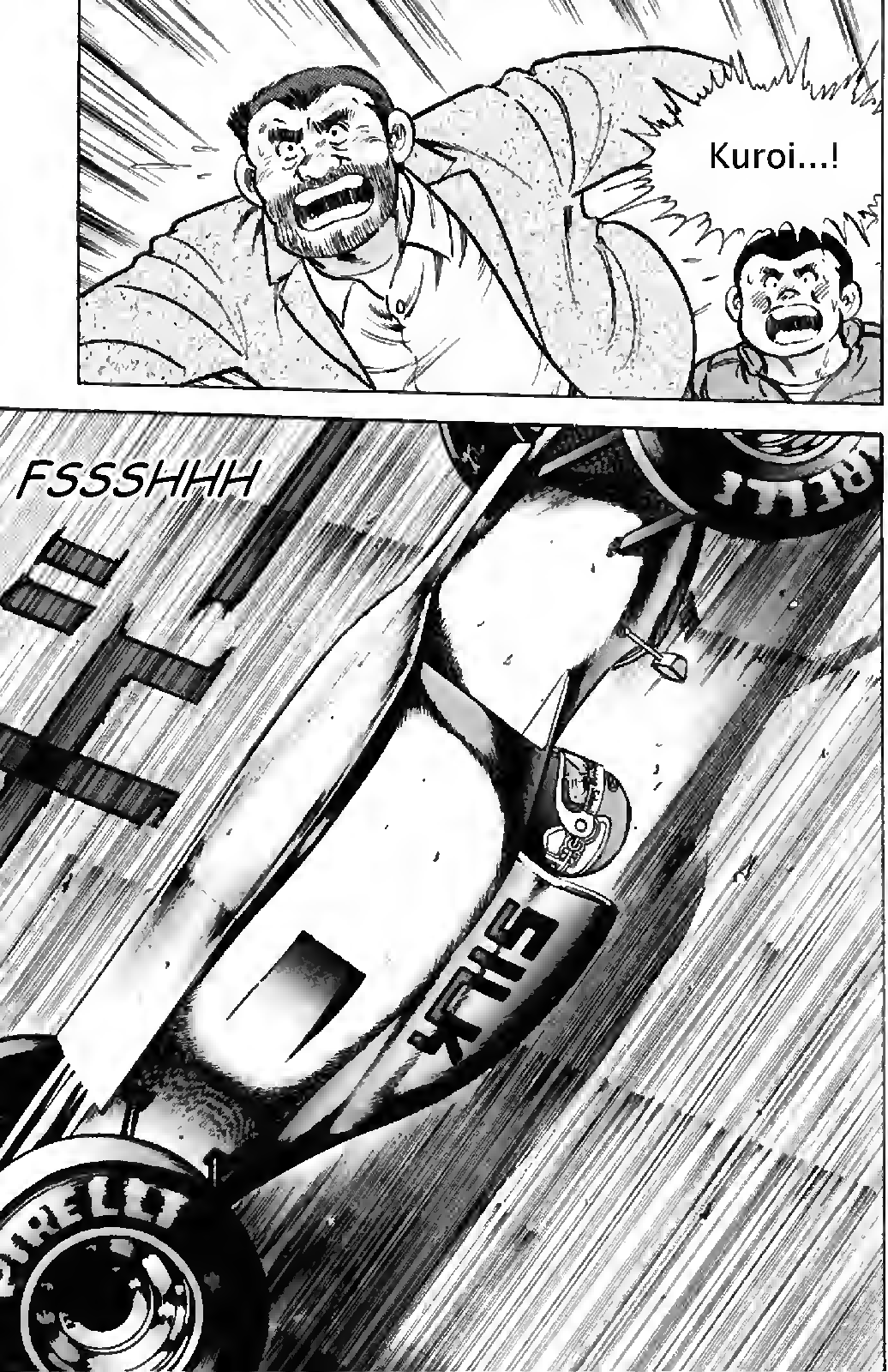


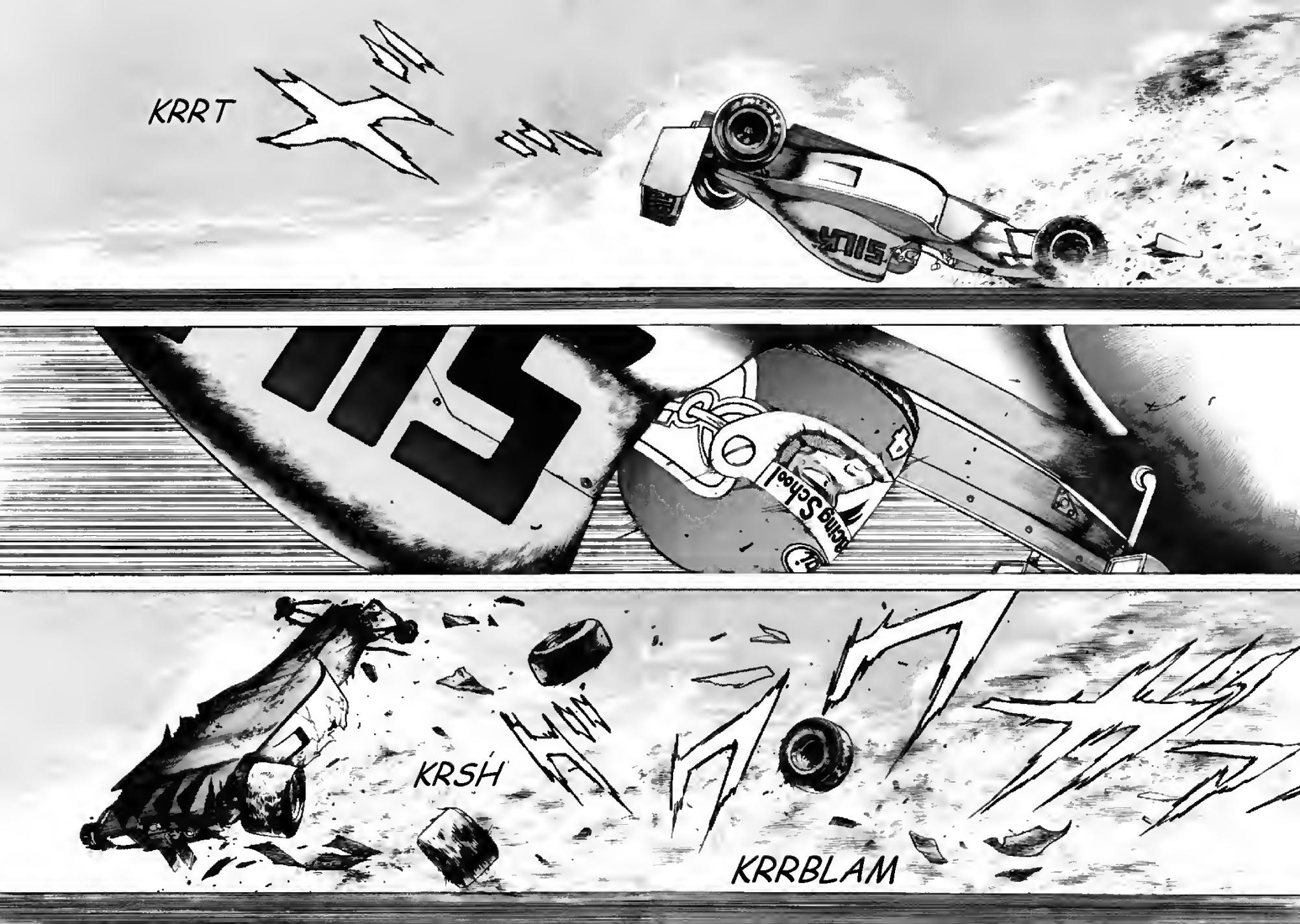
Chapter 7: Out of Control

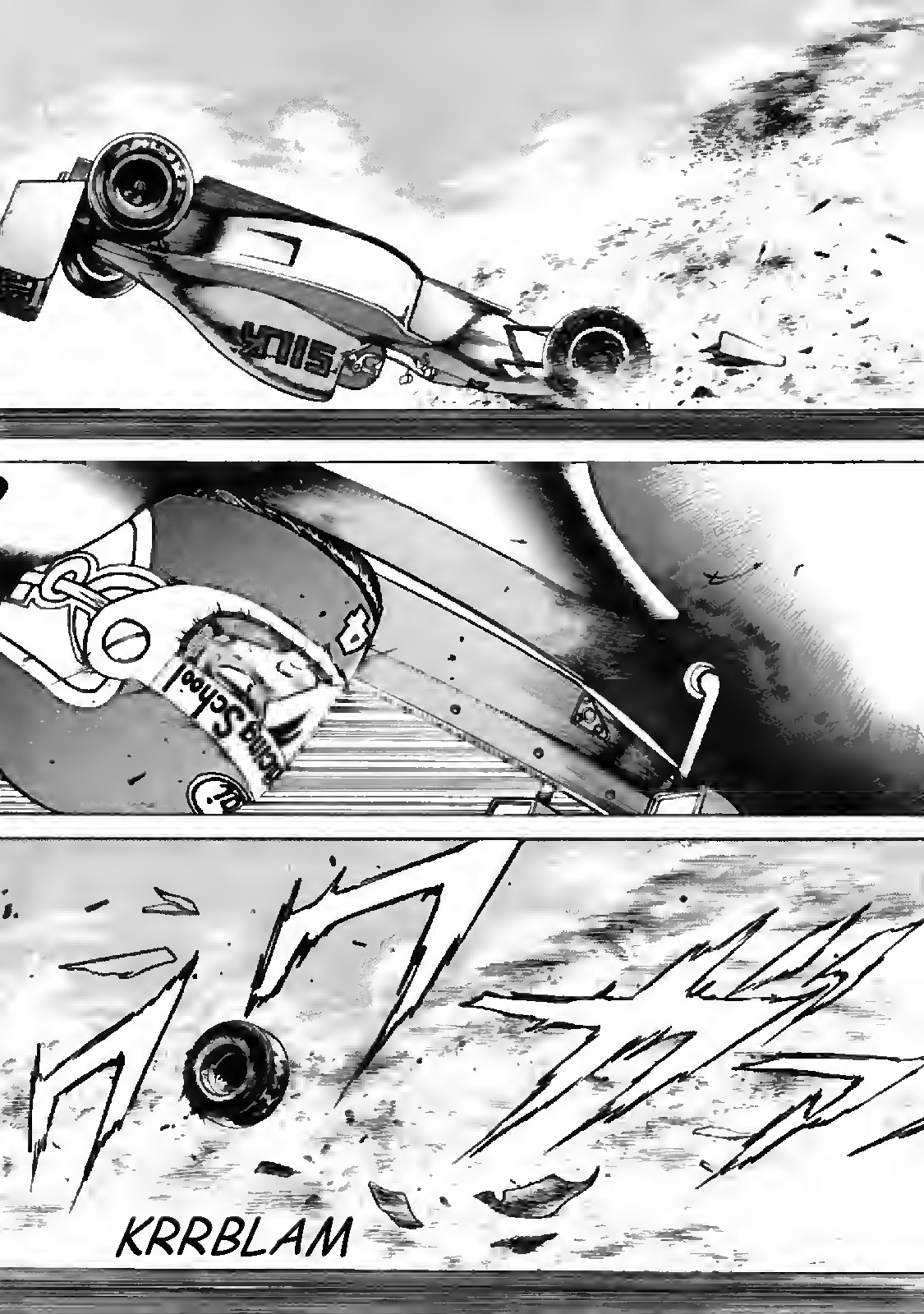

FWOOM

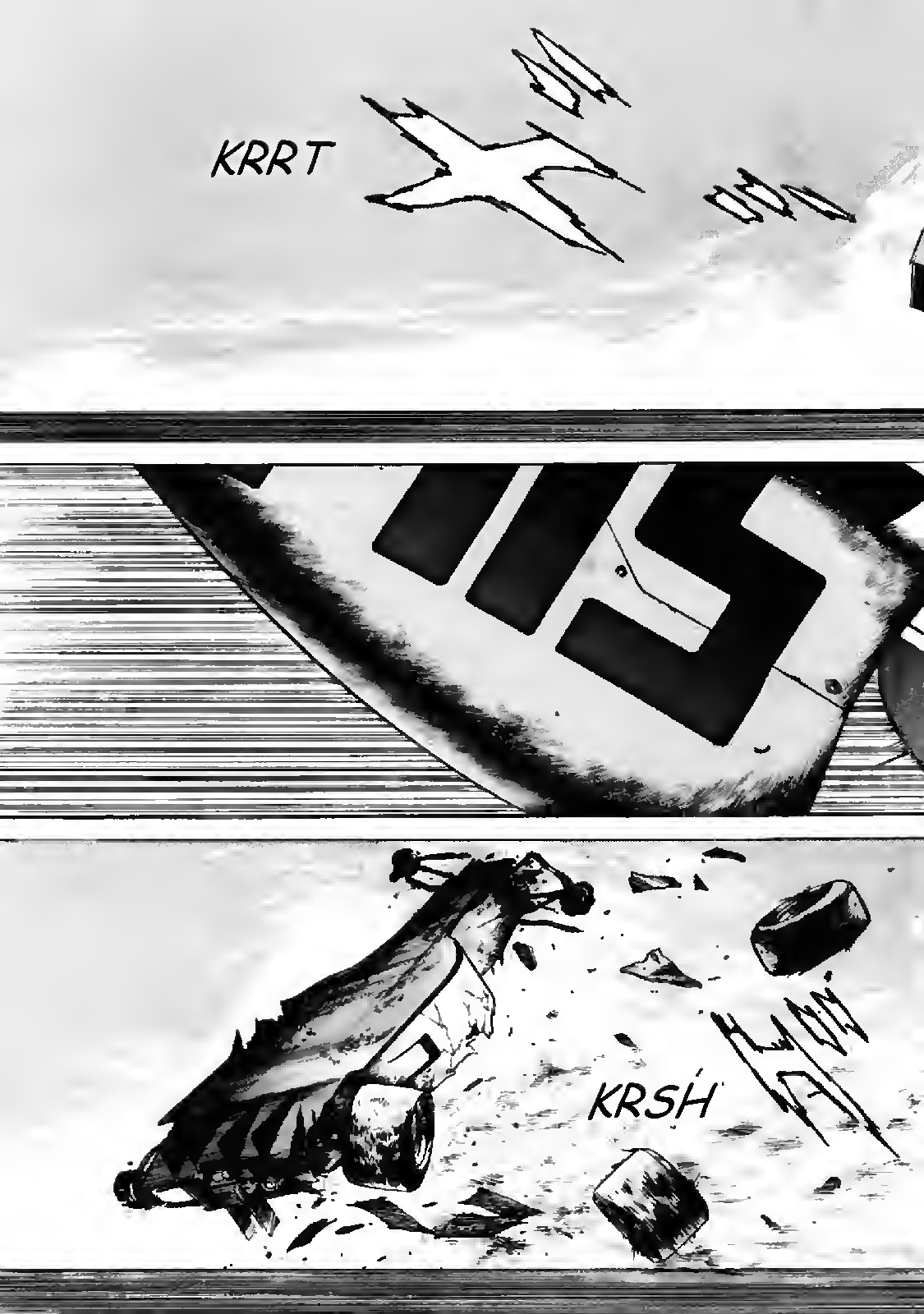
Go-Kart Racing School
14
This...

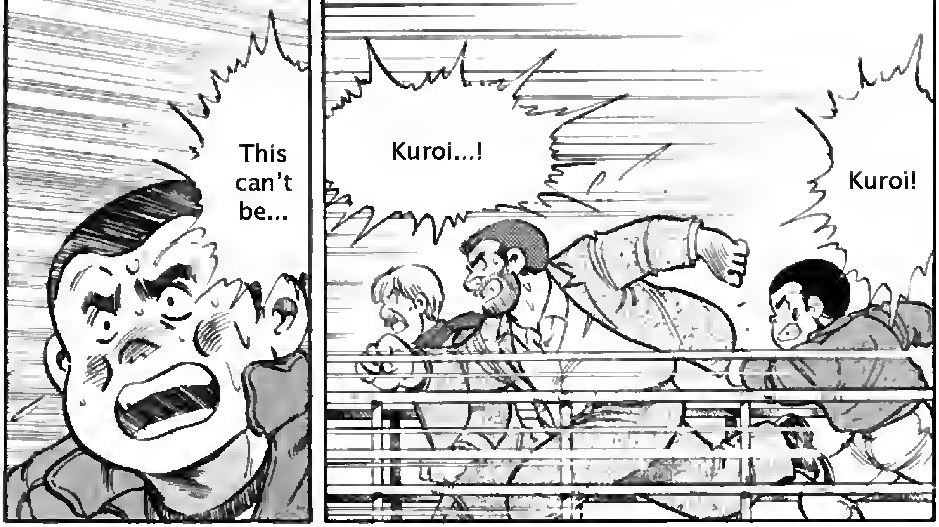

This car is...
FWISH

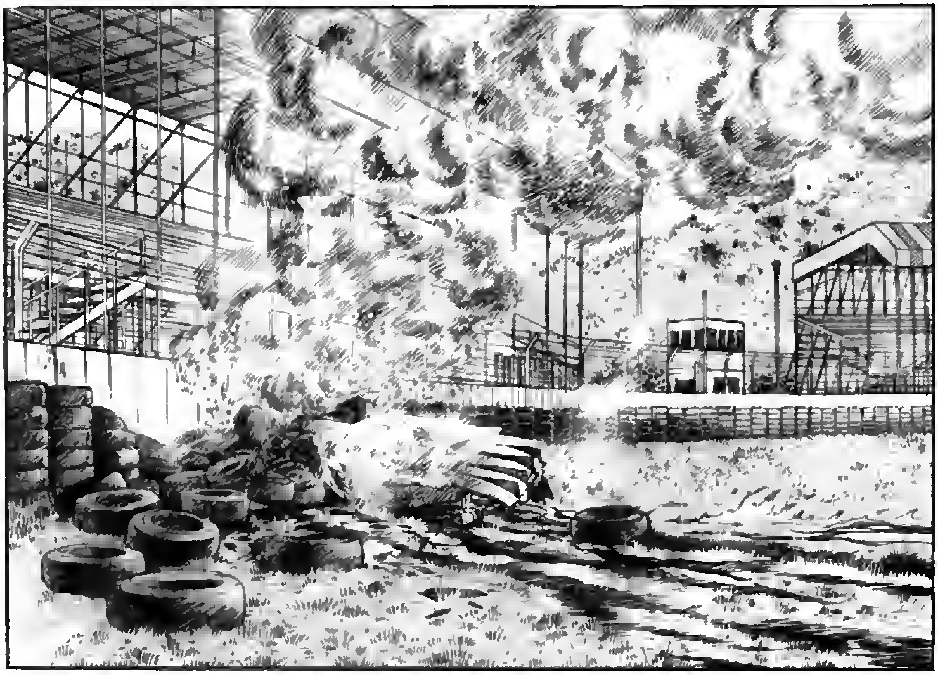

Kuroi...!
FSSSHHH


KRRT
KRSH
KRRBLAM

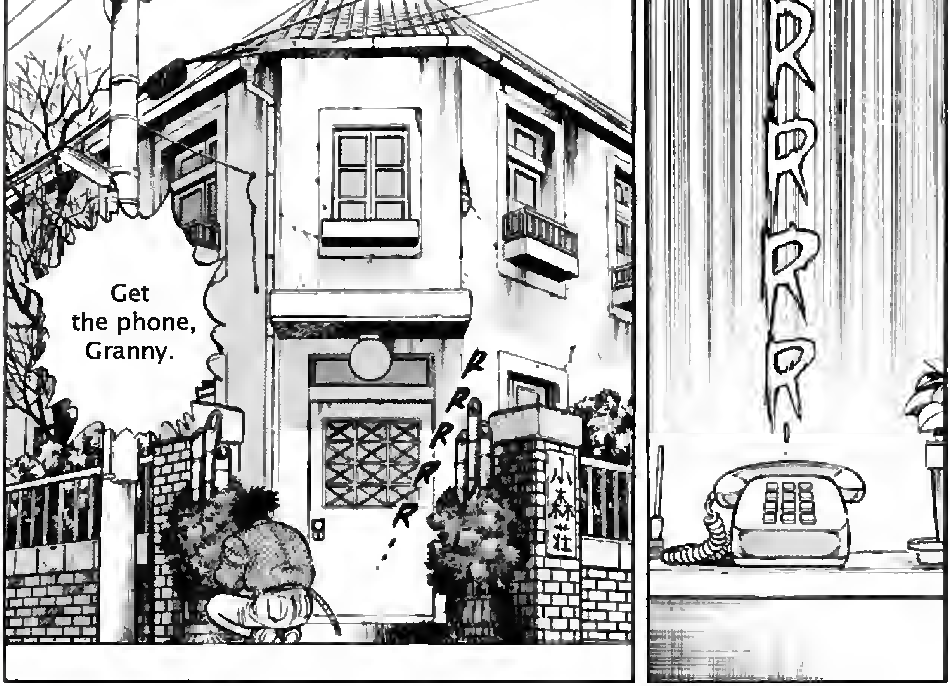

KRRBLAM

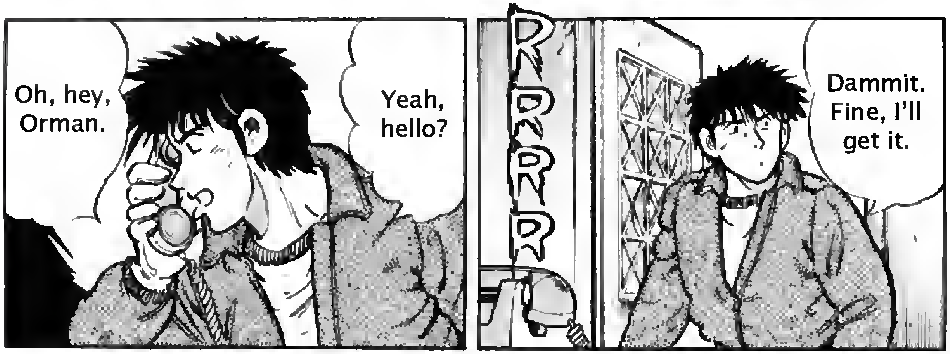

KRRT
KRSH

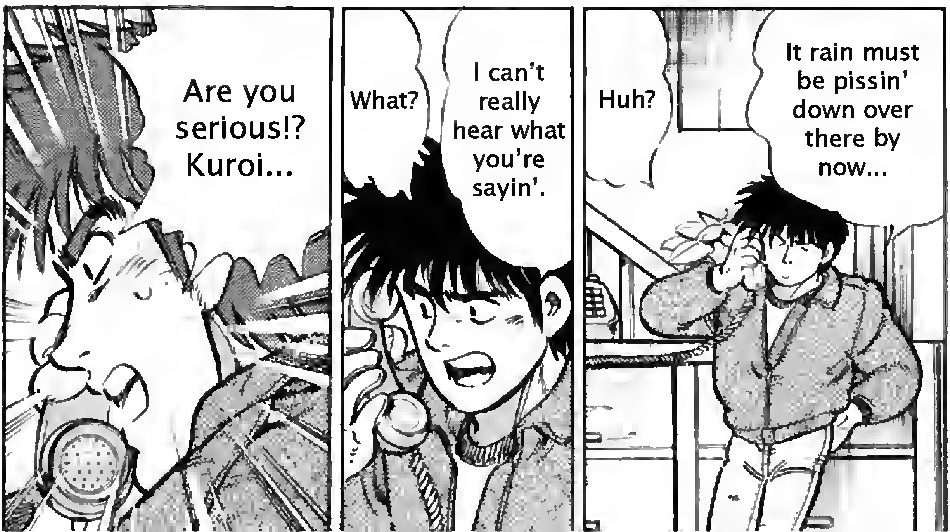

This can't be...
Kuroi...!
Kuroi!



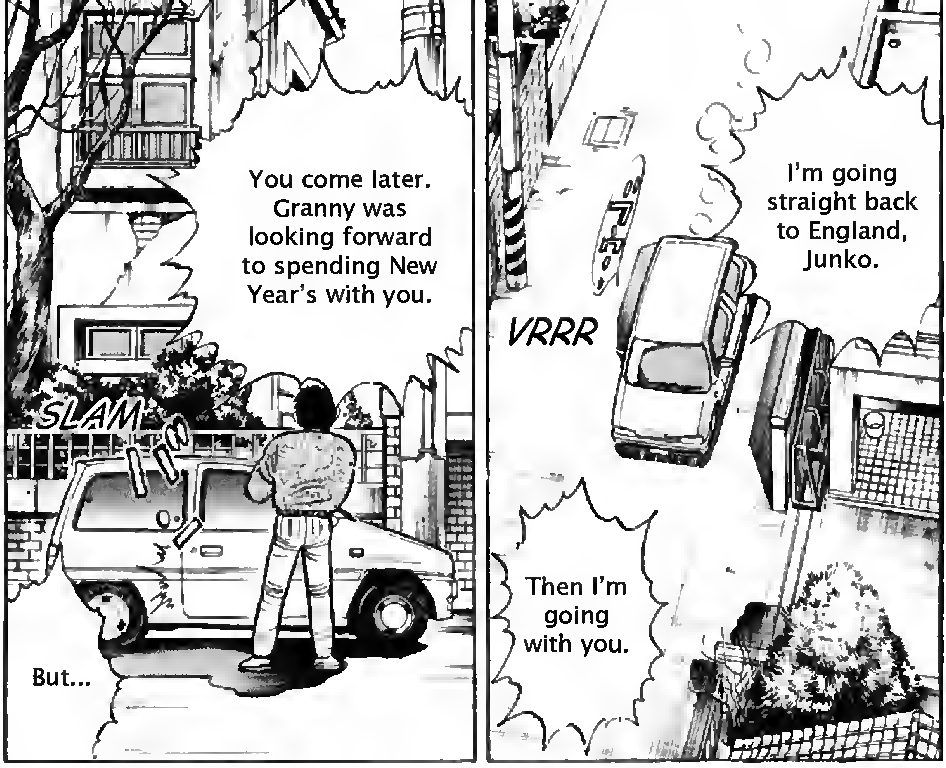
4
Goku


Get the phone, Granny.
PRRRR
小森荘
RRRRR!

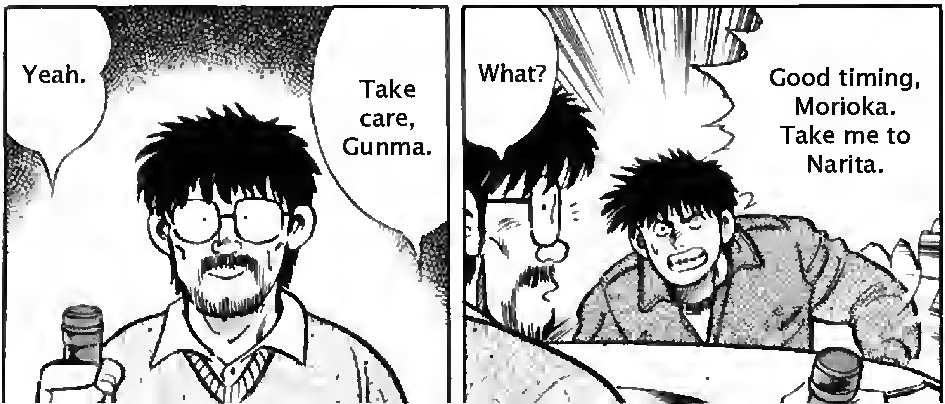

Oh, hey, Orman.
Yeah, hello?
RRRRR
Dammit. Fine, I'll get it.


Are you serious!? Kuroi...
What?
I can't really hear what you're sayin'.
Huh?
It rain must be pissin' down over there by now...

What is it, Gunma? Who was on the phone?
...?
We're home!
...
KACHUK
He was in an accident. He's hurt real bad.
It's Kuroi...
Auntie!
SLUMP
Oh, Lord ...
Kuroi!?
What!?


You come later. Granny was looking forward to spending New Year's with you.
SLAM
But...
I'm going straight back to England, Junko.
VRRR
Then I'm going with you.

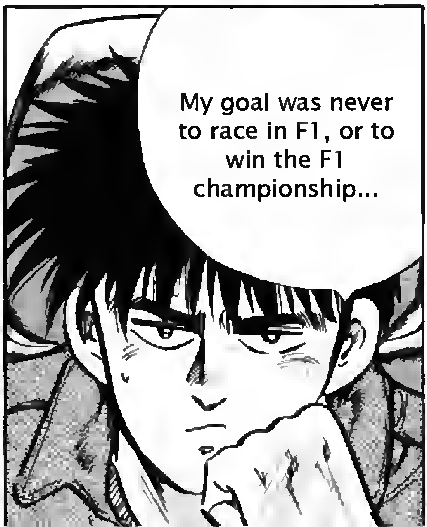
Hey. I came by for a drink.
Well, okay. Don't forget to call.
You won't even be able to find a flight at this point. If it's just me, I can wait for a seat to open up. I'll call you.


Yeah.
Take care, Gunma.
What?
Good timing, Morioka. Take me to Narita.

So how bad are his injuries?
I thought we might have a drink and chat 'cause it's been so long. But I guess now's not the time.
Man, so you're going to see Kuroi, huh?
That's good. But still...
...
I dunno. They said they weren't life-threatening, but...
You're really something!
You finished beautifully.
Well, now might not be the best time, but congrats on the Japanese GP.
It hasn't really hit me yet.
...
You're about to realize your dream!
You're gonna enter F1 next season, right?

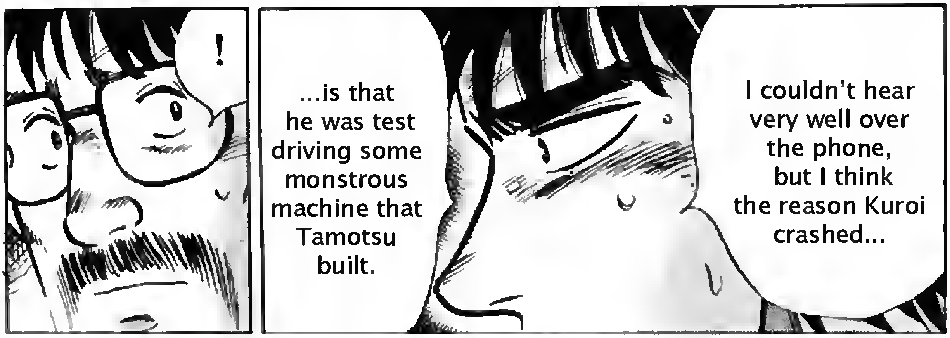
But here's the thing.
It was like a buncha freaks of nature ridin' on a buncha monster cars.
But to tell you the truth, racing in F1 at Suzuka was incredible.
Maybe because there's so much going on.

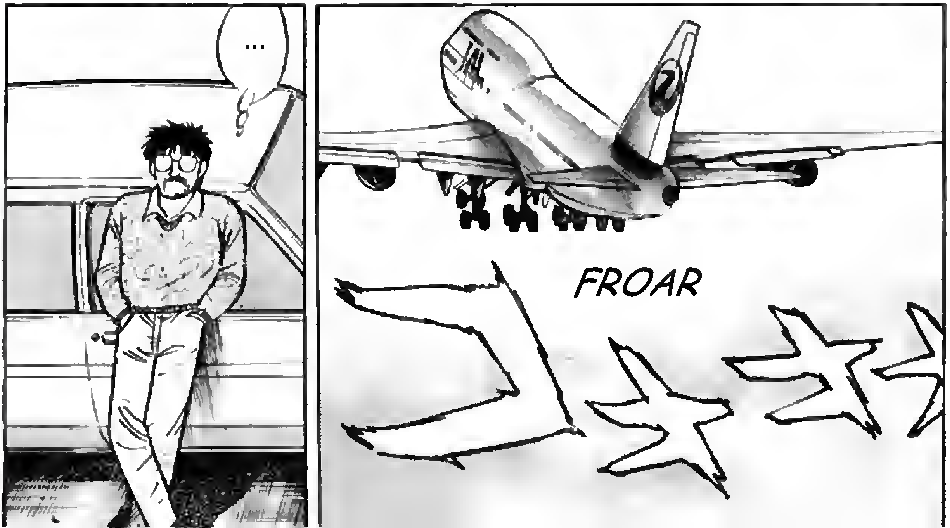
The black shadow, huh?
No matter how fast I go, and no matter how many people I pass, there's that black shadow flickering in front of me. That's who I want to pass.


My goal was never to race in F1, or to win the F1 championship...

Are you sure you're not trying to pass God or some kind of greater power?
I read about that in an interview somewhere.

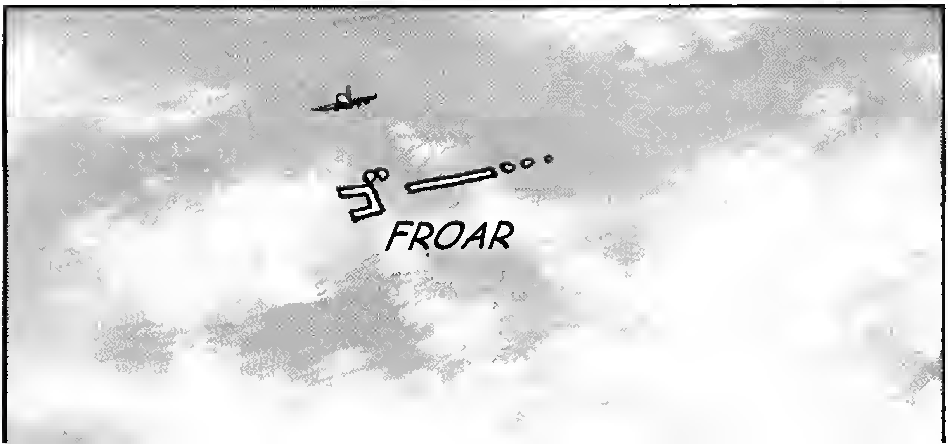
You're as reckless as ever.
Heh... Someone else asked me the same thing.


!
...is that he was test driving some monstrous machine that Tamotsu built.
I couldn't hear very well over the phone, but I think the reason Kuroi crashed...

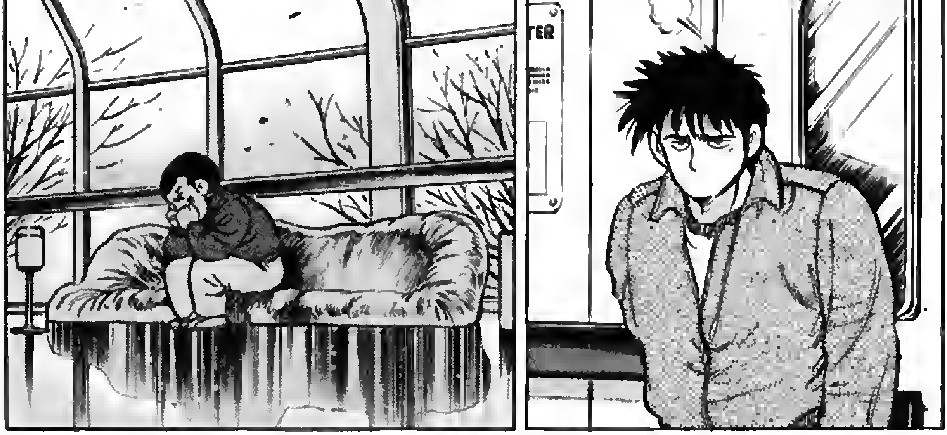

...
FROAR

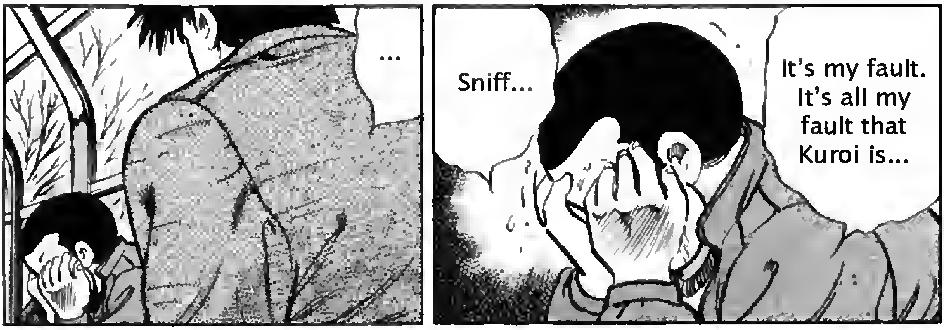
And when you do, we can relax and have a drink.
We can shoot the crap and roll around laughing.
You gotta come back.
Come back, Gunma.

You got that...?
We gotta do that sometime, buddy.
Drink and drink as time flies by until we all pass out...
Get a bunch of friends together ...


FROAR

Gunma. Where are you, Gunma?
Hey, you listening to me?
Do not drive that car, Gunma...
That car is an abomination ...
You can't... ride that car...
Yeah, I'm listening, Kuroi.
F3... Macao... I brought you up in the world of racing.
Didn't I?
Oh, there you are. Good.
Now listen to what I have to say.
Yeah, you did.
...do not ride that car.
Whatever you do...
Then listen good.




...
Sniff...
It's my fault. It's all my fault that Kuroi is...

I'm never touching a car ever again... I... I quit!
F...forgive me, Gunma. Our dream... It's all over...

I'm going back to the country to grow shiitake mushrooms with my momma!
Please, forgive me, Gunma!

WHAM
Gunma...
BAM
I'm gonna kill you!
Grahh!
CRACK
WHAM
BAM
Gu...
Gu...
Gunma
...

Chapter 8: Gain and Loss

Gunma!

Die, you bastard!

What the hell are you two doing?
Urgh...
くそ…

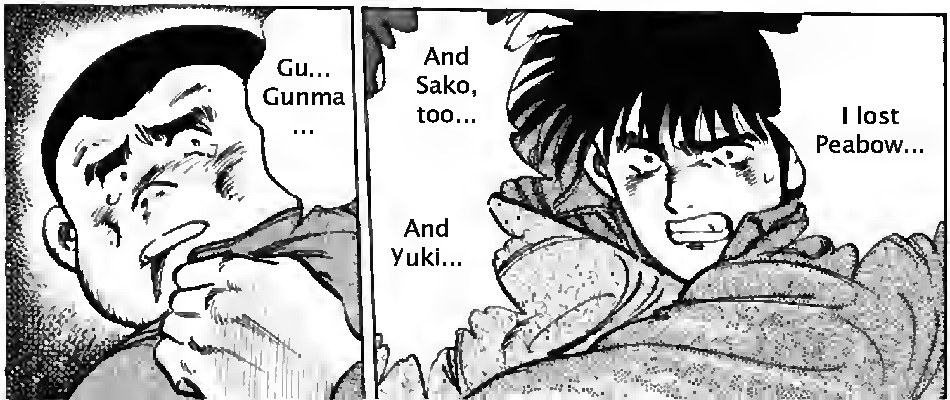
KACHIK

I'm gonna kill you!
You little... Piece of...
G... Grahh!
Gunma!
Hey, take it easy!
Get your hands off him! What the hell are you doing?
Greh!
SLAM

You okay, Ta-motsu!?
Whoa!
HACK HACK HACK
WHAM
Ahhh!
Gunma!
WOOSH
The day we quit racing...
...is the day we die!
The day...

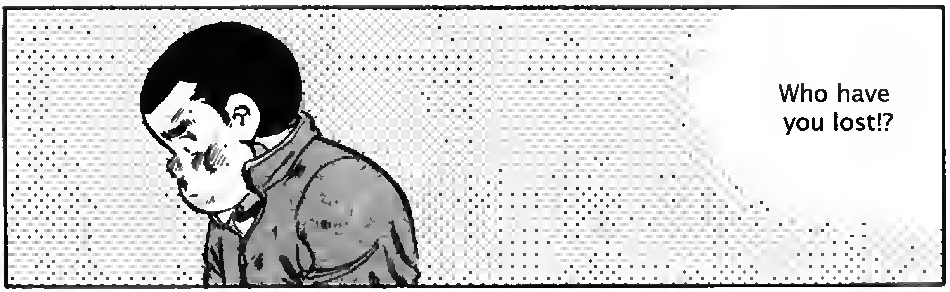
I don't wanna do this anymore. I got Kuroi hurt real bad...
And if you drive that car, Gunma, you'll...
...who runs off crying...
...with his tail between his legs!
I'll kill...
... anyone...

Tell me, you bastard, who have you lost?
Who have you lost!?
Huh?


Gu... Gunma ...
And Sako, too...
And Yuki...
I lost Peabow...

The day we quit racing is the day we die!
For those we lost!
I gained a lot from racing.
But I lost a lot too!
...
That's enough, Gunma... Don't get so excited...
Were you just talkin' out yer ass when you told me that you'd be the one to kill me!?
You bastard, changing your mind whenever it's convenient for you...
Just shut up and come with me!
Let go of me! I'm not done!
Tamotsu!

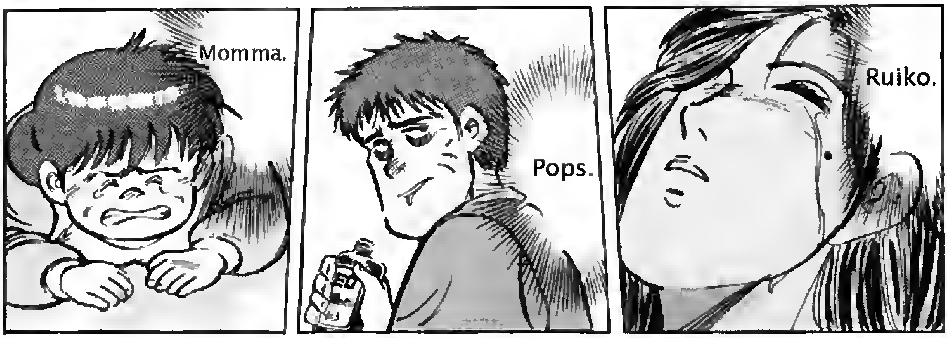
Tamo–
tsu!

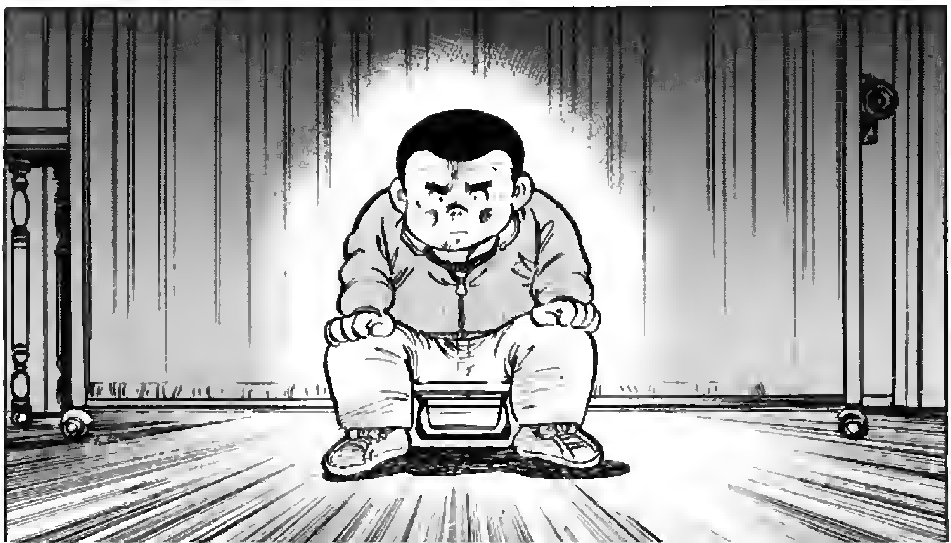

Who have
you lost!?

カチャ
KACHIK

Don't... let... anyone... ride it...
That car... It's an abomination ...
Who have you lost!?
Mr. Hijiri.
It's like the world around me is rejecting my existence...
I'm starting to lose the feeling in my hands and my feet...

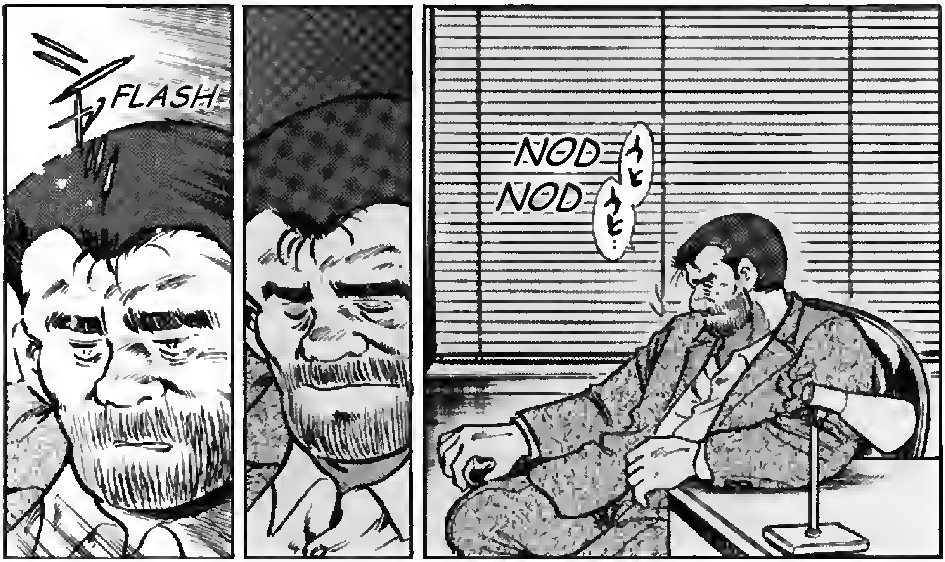
Let me take back the world one more time!
Please, Tamotsu! Let me race!
SHOEI

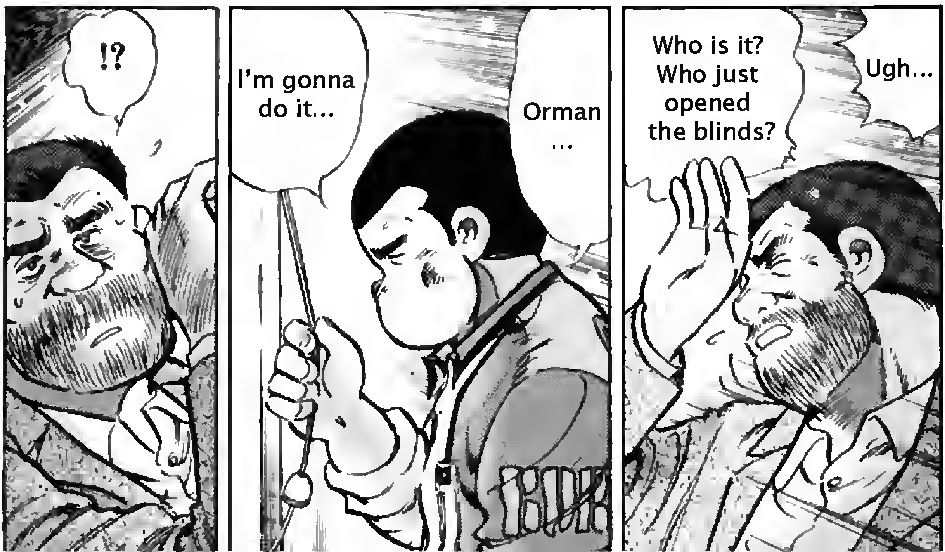

Momma.
Pops.
Ruiko.



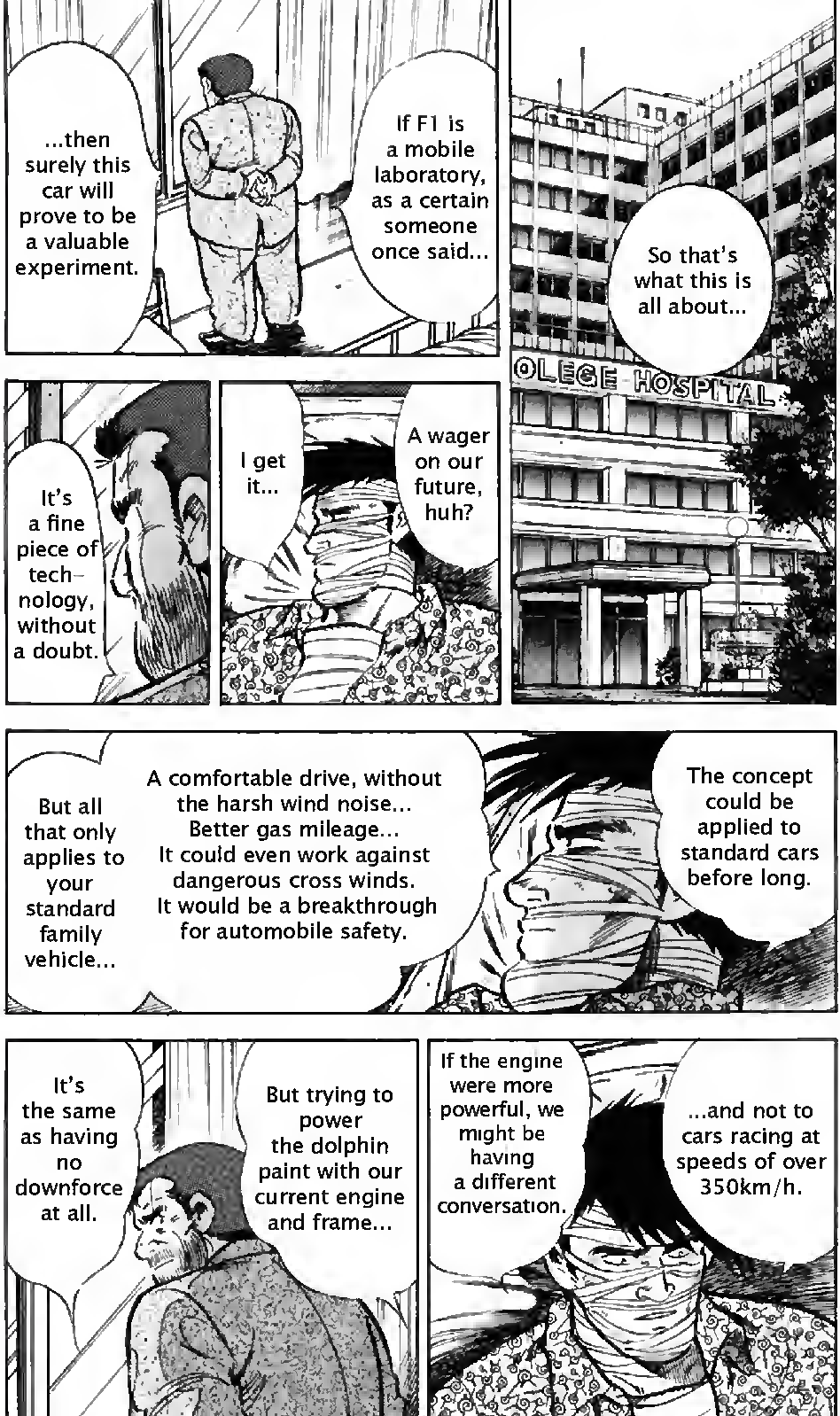
HONK

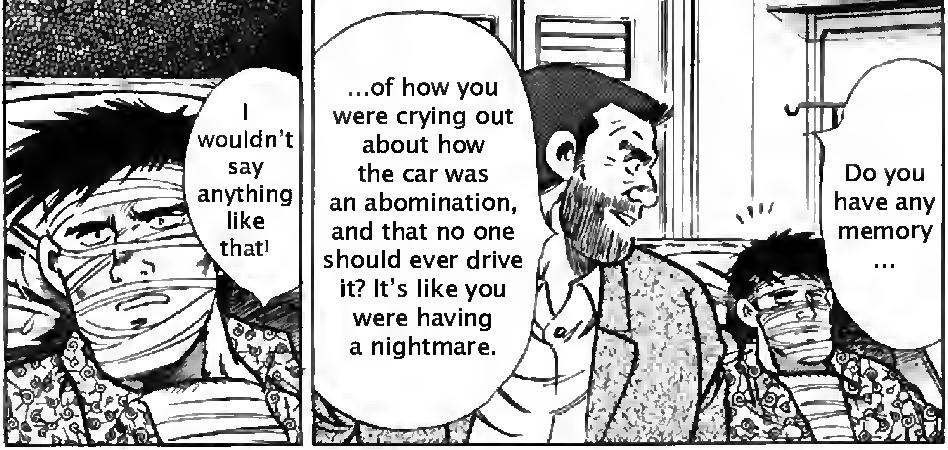
COCK


FLASH
NOD
NOD


!?
I'm gonna do it...
Orman ...
Who is it? Who just opened the blinds?
Ugh...

I've decided!
You said it was up to me whether we enter that car in F1 or not!
What do you mean?
I mean I'm gonna do it.
Tamotsu ...
Still...
It might fly through the air. It might violate the regulations.
You're good with that, right, Orman?
I'm wagering on our future! You're all right with this, ain't you!?
That car has a future!


...then surely this car will prove to be a valuable experiment.
If F1 is a mobile laboratory, as a certain someone once said...
So that's what this is all about...
OLEGE HOSPITAL
It's a fine piece of tech-nology, without a doubt.
I get it...
A wager on our future, huh?
But all that only applies to your standard family vehicle...
A comfortable drive, without the harsh wind noise... Better gas mileage... It could even work against dangerous cross winds. It would be a breakthrough for automobile safety.
The concept could be applied to standard cars before long.
It's the same as having no downforce at all.
But trying to power the dolphin paint with our current engine and frame...
If the engine were more powerful, we might be having a different conversation.
...and not to cars racing at speeds of over 350km/h.


Do you have any memory ...
...of how you were crying out about how the car was an abomination, and that no one should ever drive it? It's like you were having a nightmare.
I wouldn't say anything like that!

You don't even remember ...
No...
I might have said it...

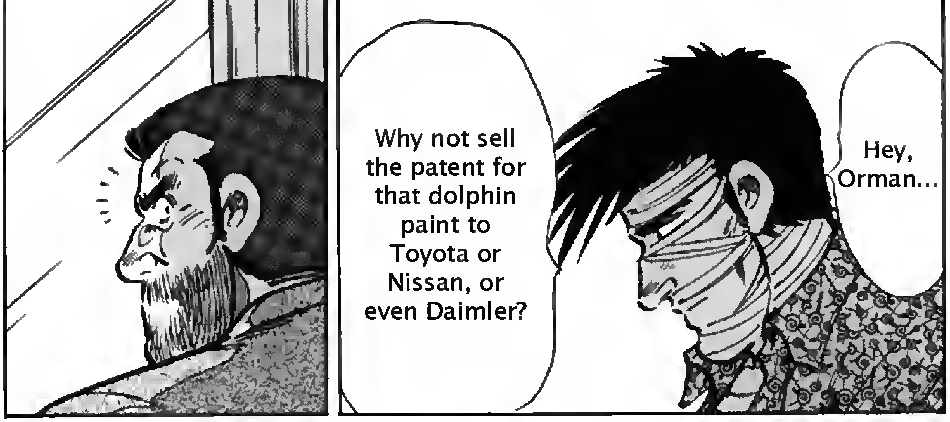
During my days as a test driver, I drove a lot of dangerous cars, but...
...that was the first time in my life I felt so terrified.
To be honest, it really is an abomination. That car is horrifying.

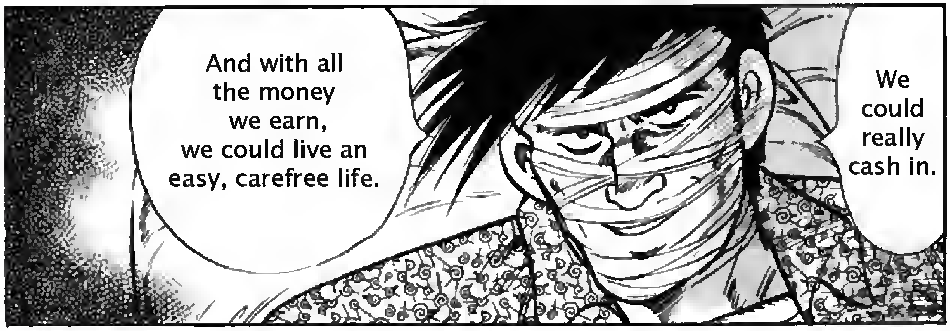
So what did you say to Tamotsu, Orman?
I said yes.

Should I have refused?
"Yes" was the only response I had to give.
Gunma is willing to risk his life. I'd bet Tamotsu is, too.
Could I have said anything else?
Those two are asking to put their lives on the line.

I'm sure it's the same for Tamotsu. And it's the same for us. We've gained and lost so much...
"There's a lot I gained from racing, but I can't count the things I've lost." That's what Gunma told me.

What it boils down to is, we have to stay in the game till the bitter end!
You think after all that, we could just go out and run a half-assed race?


Why not sell the patent for that dolphin paint to Toyota or Nissan, or even Daimler?
Hey, Orman...

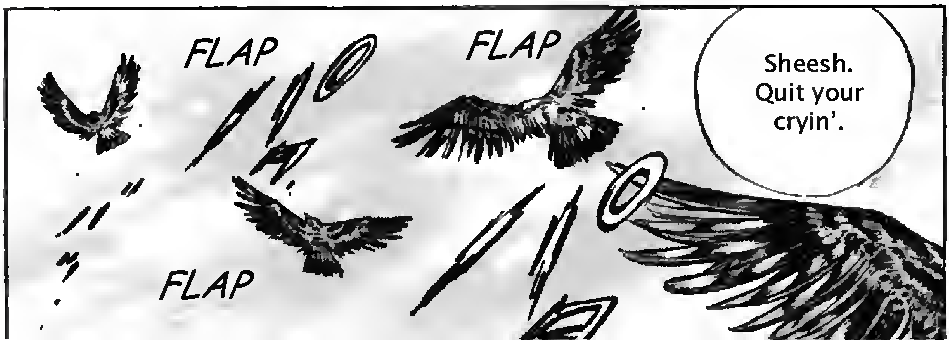

And with all the money we earn, we could live an easy, carefree life.
We could really cash in.

That's not a bad idea at all!
I'd bet the auto makers would all flock to us.
That's a fantastic idea, Kuroi!

But...
SNIFF

As long as nothing bad happens to anyone...
...we'll only do that if our whole team is safe and sound...

That would be for the best!
...then we could sell it. That would be good.


FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
Sheesh. Quit your cryin'.

It's almost the year 1992.

Chapter 9:
The Island of Suffering

2

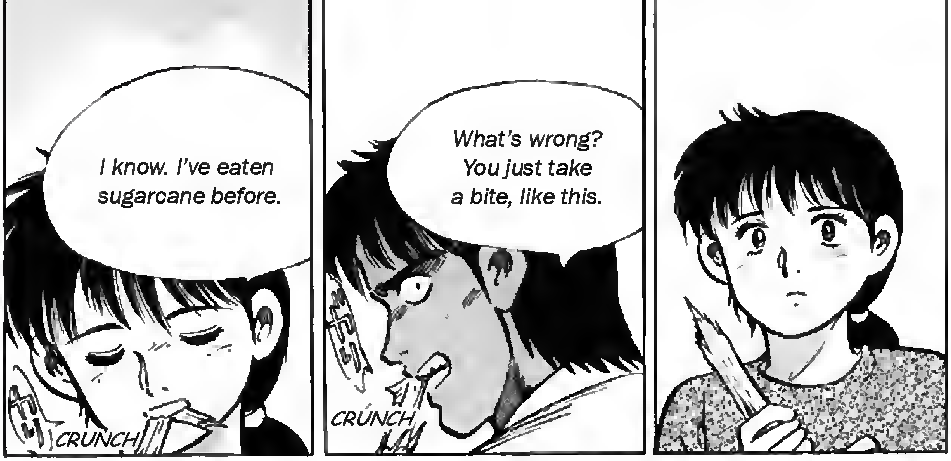
BUFF
That one's name is Buff.
Oh, nothing. Just watching the buffalo.
HAHAHA
BOCCO
And over there is Bocco!
Oh, I forgot. Carlo was looking for you.
He's awesome! He's a man amongst men! He helps us all out, but he kinda has a short fuse.
Hey, Lou. What's Carlo like?

Where were you?
Just out for a walk.
Lou, go and help out!
The kids around here...
I'm fine now, thanks to you!
Are you feeling better?
They die even if they do...
They'd starve to death if they didn't.
...work really hard, don't they?

I left the island, and even made it as far as Manila. I even thought about going to Japan to work.
To Japan?
I left for the city. Bacolod, Victorias, Cadiz...
I worked a lot. I did everything.
Were you born on this island too, Carlo?
Yeah, but I didn't stay...

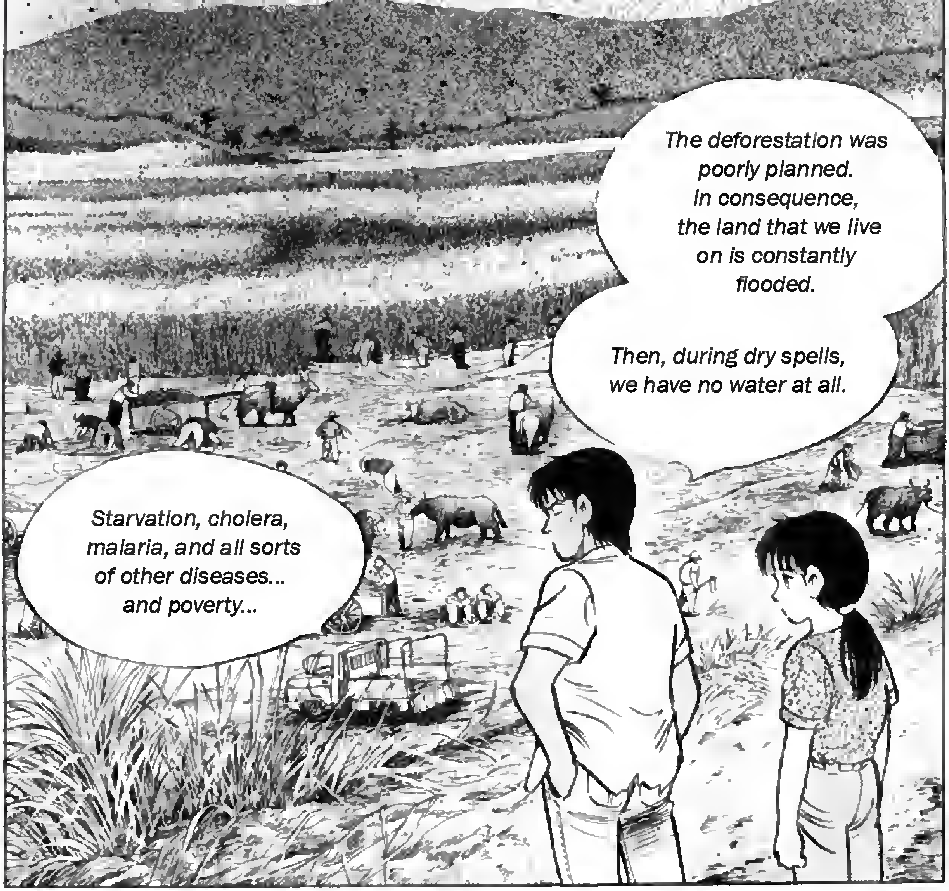
Starvation and disease. That's all this island has to offer.
That was six years ago. But then, both my parents died.
I rushed back to the island, and found my sister floating in the pond.

Eat up.
There was still nothing but poverty, starvation, and disease...
I even joined the New People's Army to take down Marcos.
But even when Aquino came to power, nothing changed on this island.


I know. I've eaten sugarcane before.
CRUNCH
What's wrong? You just take a bite, like this.
CRUNCH

It's our staple food.

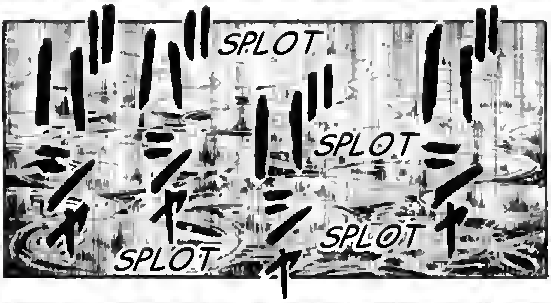
Some people call our island the "Island of Sugar." Sugarcane grows all over.
But it all belongs to the plantation owners, and to make matters worse, the sugar industry is on the decline.
In order to increase production, the plantation owners have cut down forests and planted more sugarcane and coconut trees.
The losses have been shifted to us lowly farmers...


The deforestation was poorly planned. In consequence, the land that we live on is constantly flooded.
Then, during dry spells, we have no water at all.
Starvation, cholera, malaria, and all sorts of other diseases... and poverty...

This is the "Island of Suffering"!

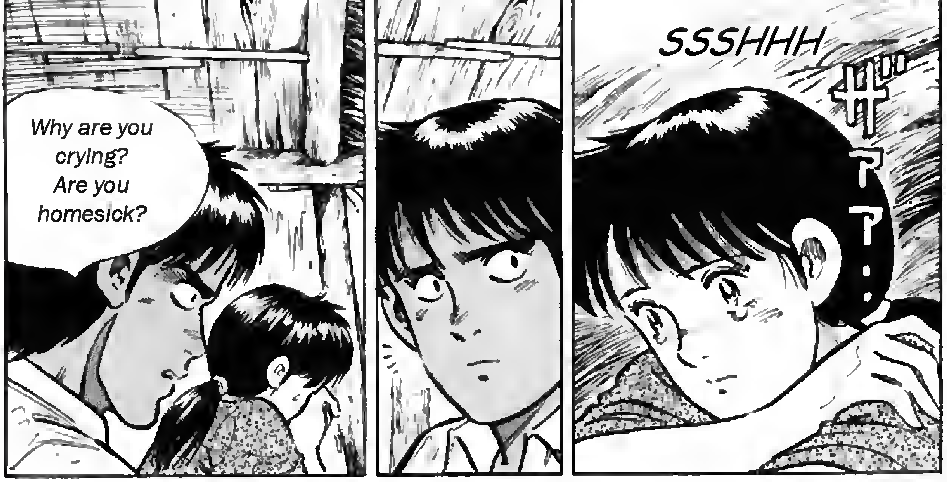
...

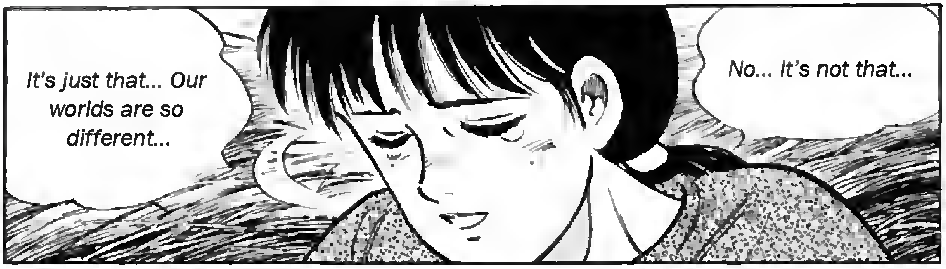
ZSSSSHHHH

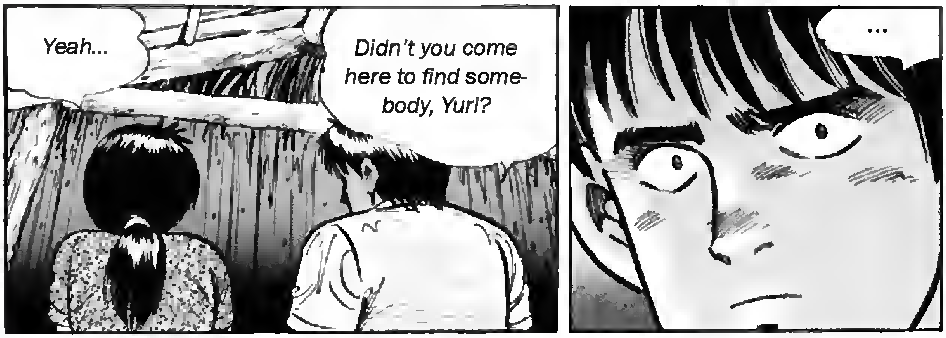

SPLOT
SPLOT
SPLOT
SPLOT

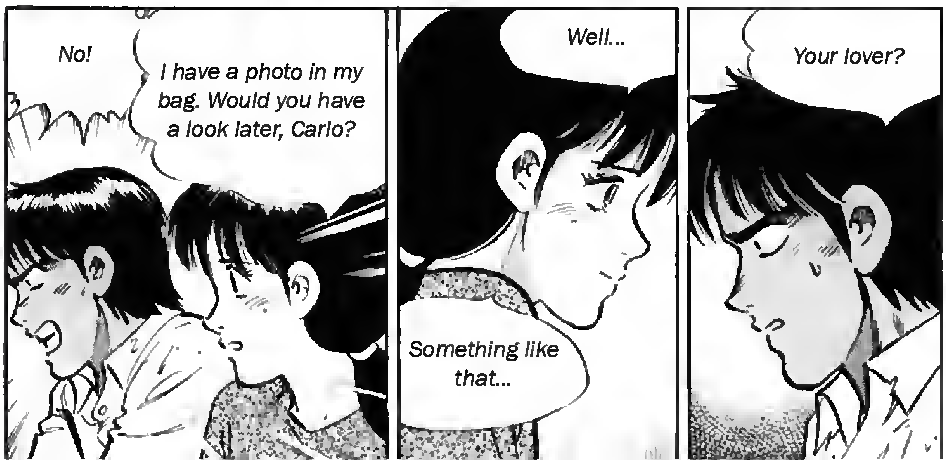
It's really pouring down...

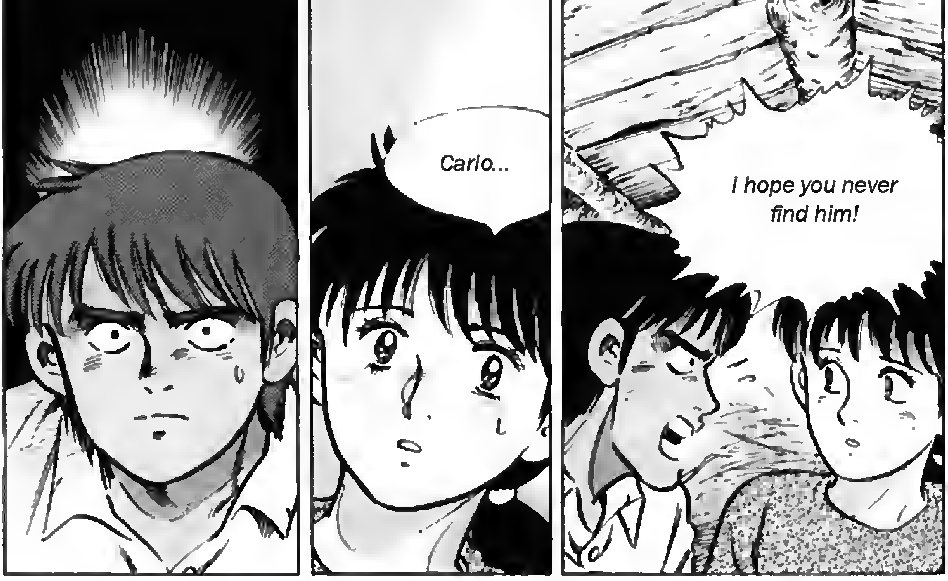
KSSSHHH

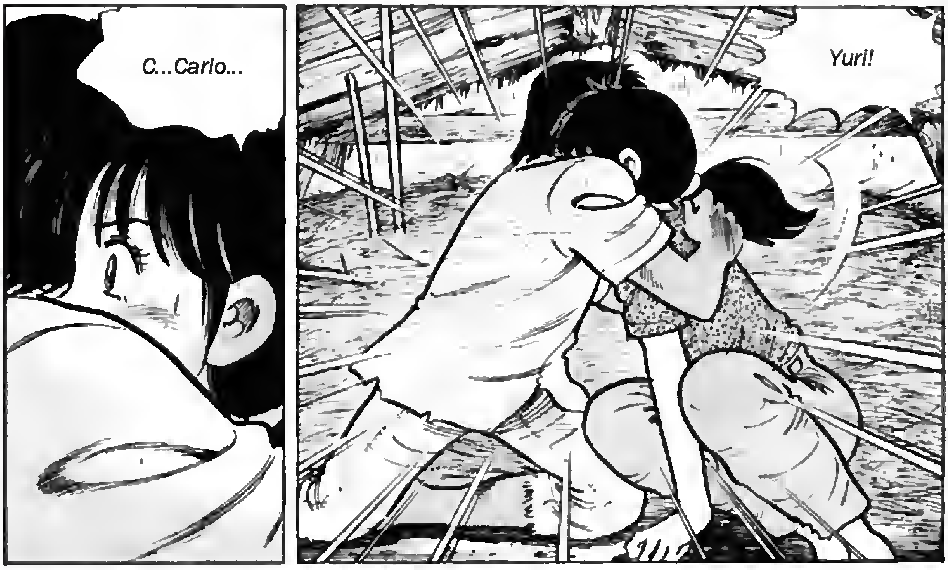

Why are you crying? Are you homesick?
SSSHHH
ア ア ア


It's just that... Our worlds are so different...
No... It's not that...


Yeah...
Didn't you come here to find somebody, Yuri?
...

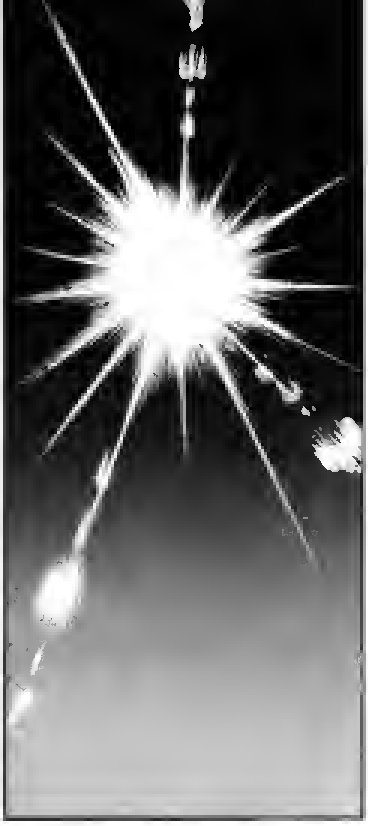
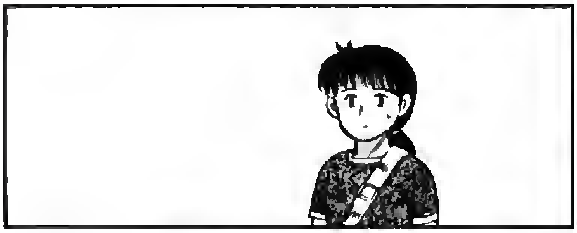
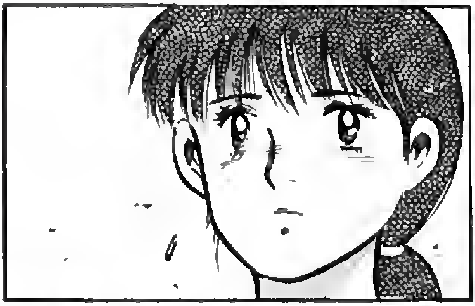

No!
I have a photo in my bag. Would you have a look later, Carlo?
Well...
Something like that...
Your lover?

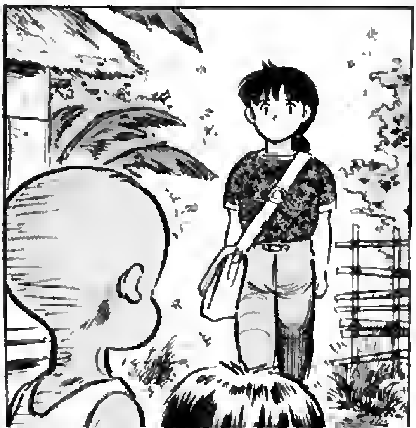
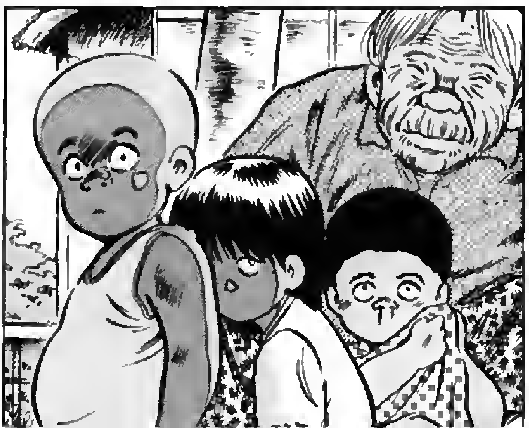

Carlo...
I hope you never find him!


C...Carlo...
Yuri!

I want you, Yuri...
W...wait, Carlo. Stop. Please, Carlo, don't...

SLAP
Carlo, I said no...
I'm sorry... I shouldn't have hit you... I...
It's not that I don't like you... It's just... I can't get in that kind of mood...
Huff...
Huff...
Carlo...
DASH
ZSSHHH

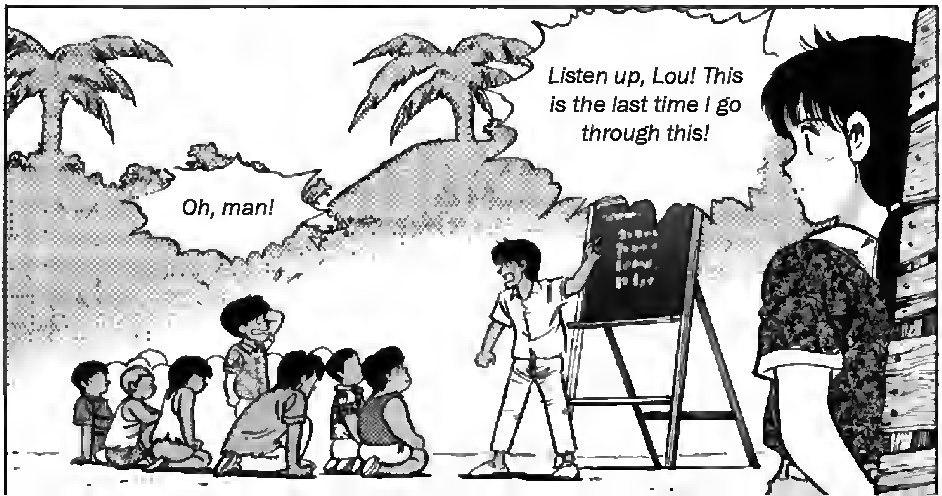




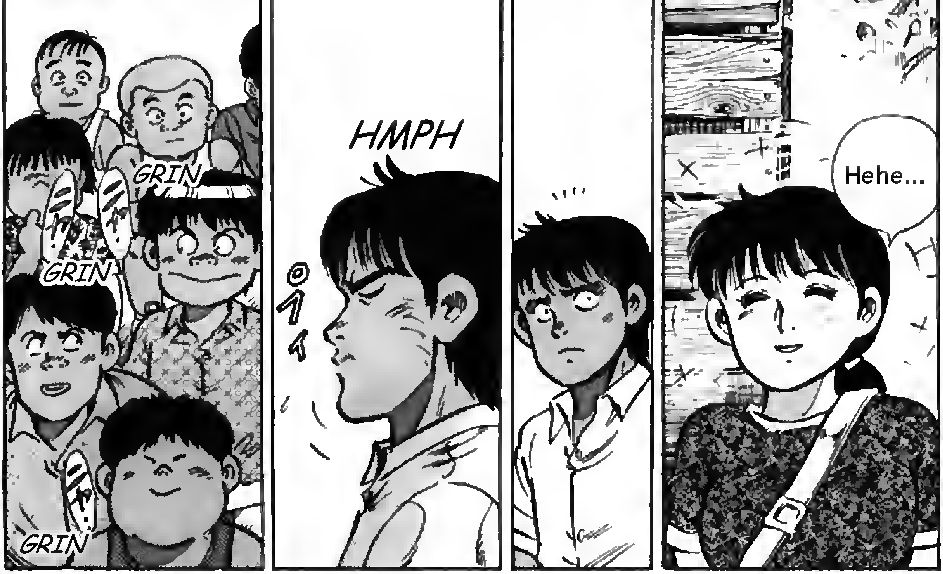



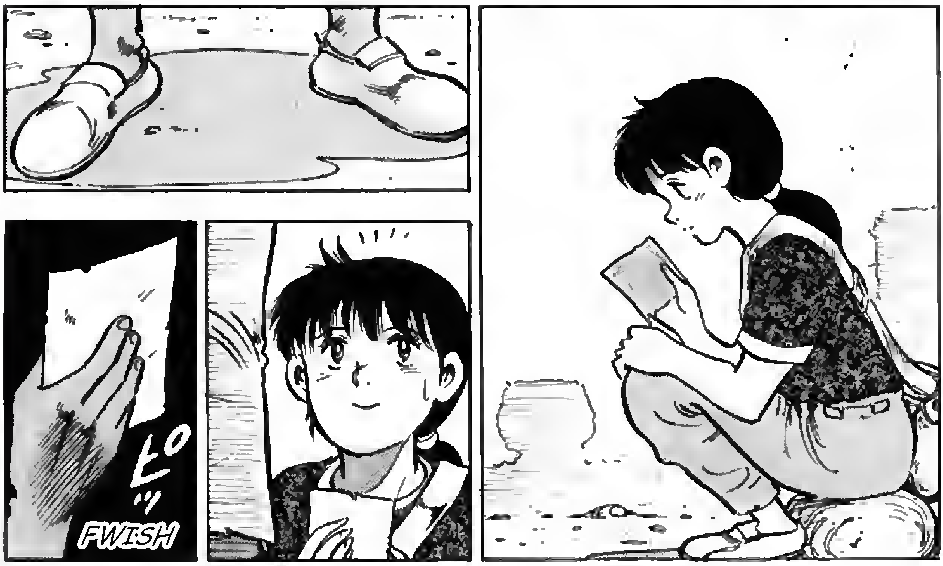
He hasn't said a word since the morning. We don't know what to do!
At this rate, he's gonna blow up during class!
You did something to Carlo, didn't you, Yuri!?
Carlo was really mad!

Carlo is our teacher!
Yeah, that's right. Carlo gives us lessons.
Class?

Wow...


Listen up, Lou! This is the last time I go through this!
Oh, man!


GRIN
GRIN
GRIN
HMPH
Hehe...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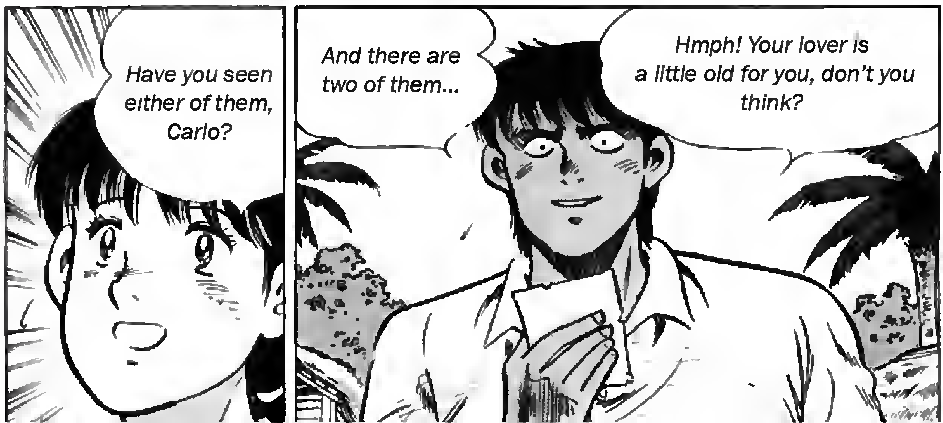
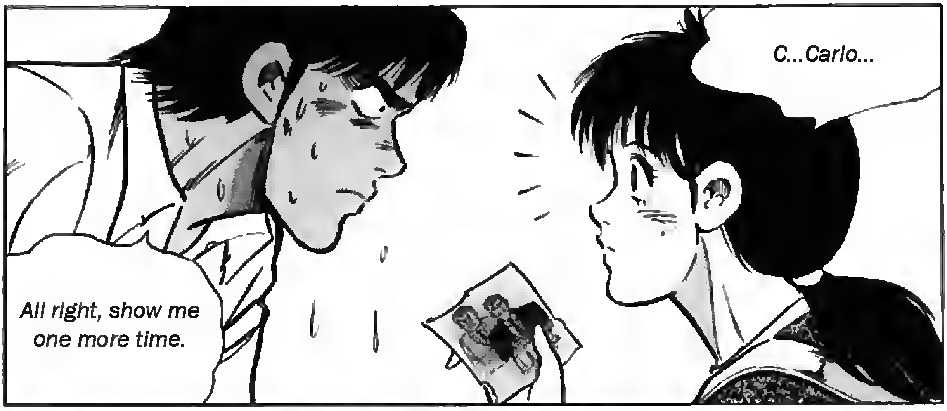
"
FWISH

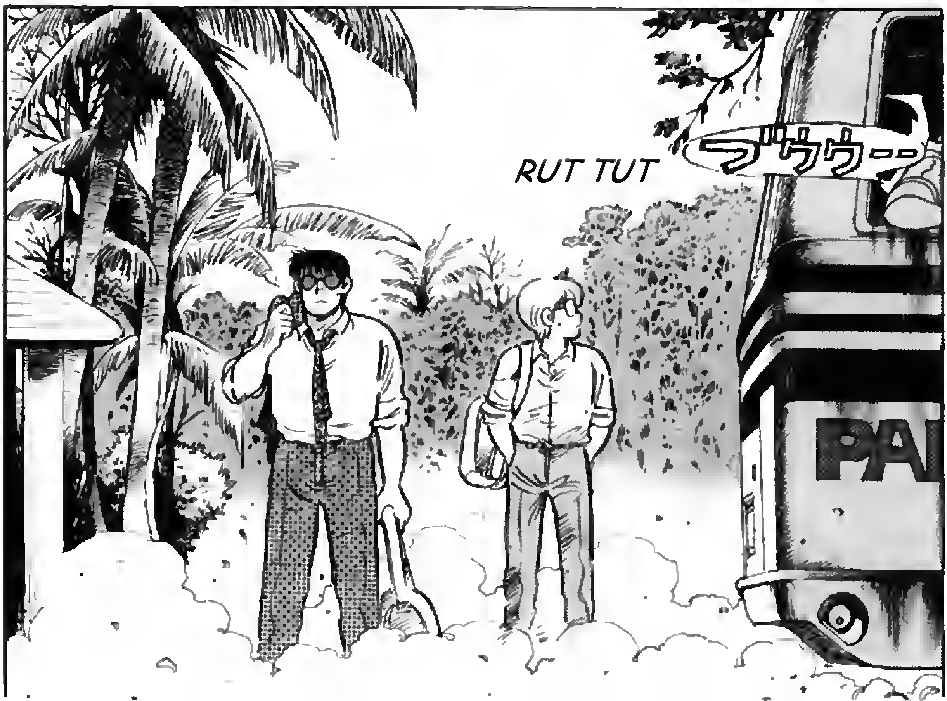

Have you seen either of them, Carlo?
And there are two of them...
Hmph! Your lover is a little old for you, don't you think?

Hmph! No idea! Never seen these geezers!


C...Carlo...
All right, show me one more time.

Carlo!
Wait... I know these guys! It's them!

I'm begging you, Carlo! I need to find these two no matter what!
Where, Carlo? Where did you see them?
Huh! Like I'd tell you!
That's right. That's what I came all this way for!
No matter what?
!!
C...Carlo...
Then be my woman, Yuri! Sleep with me!
Then I'll tell you!



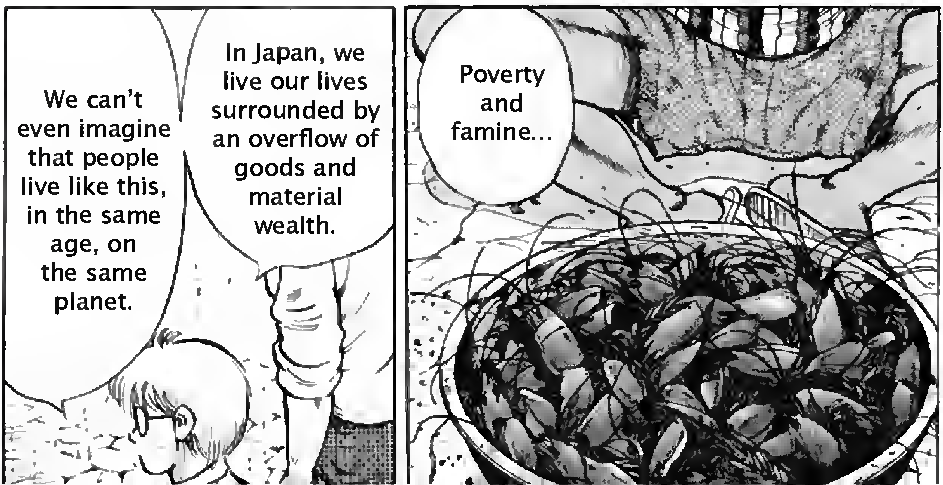
Reference Negurosu - Nageki no Shima by Munesuke Yamamoto

F
VOL.25

Chapter 10:
The Jungle

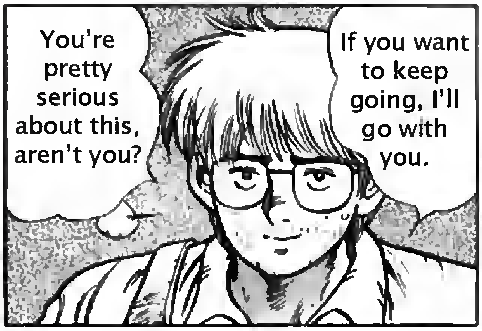
Street children swarm the towns.
This island is unbeliev-able ...
Impoverished laborers struggle in an industry on the brink of collapse.

The Japanese eat the good parts, and the islanders are left with just the heads...
When I asked what they did with the rest of the shrimp, they said they ship them off to Japan...
Did you see how they were selling shrimp heads in Bacolod?

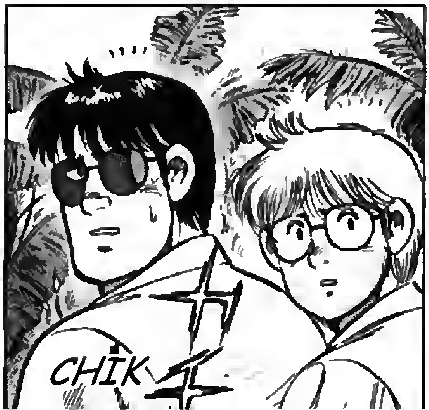

We can't even imagine that people live like this, in the same age, on the same planet.
In Japan, we live our lives surrounded by an overflow of goods and material wealth.
Poverty and famine...

It's hot...
...Dad went from India to Bangladesh, and then to this island, right?
According to that letter from Yuri...
Maybe he's here for atone-ment...
That's nonsense.
...considering the Akagi trading company bought up a lot of goods from around the world.
Shoma ...
Let's find a place to stay.

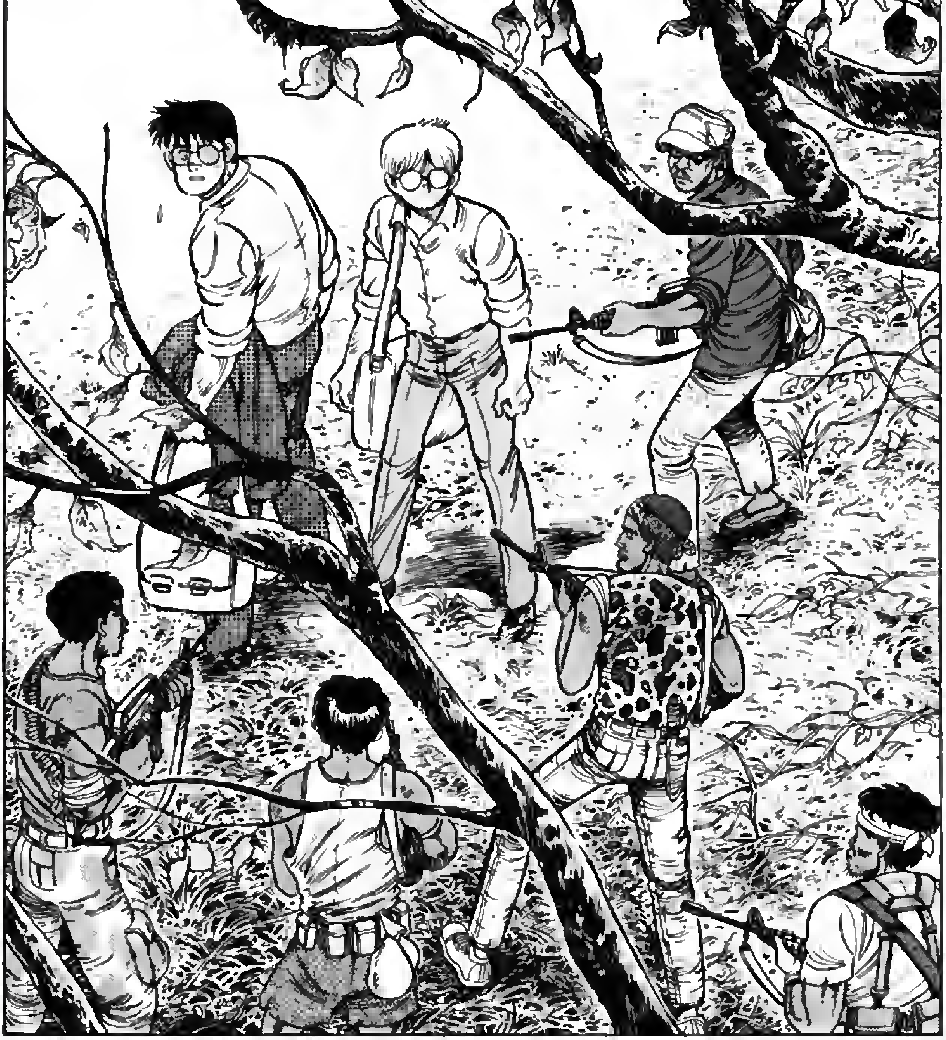
It's too dangerous here anyway.
I heard a lot of Japanese people have been abducted around here.
I doubt there's anywhere to stay in these farmlands.
I think it'd be smarter to get back to town before it gets dark.

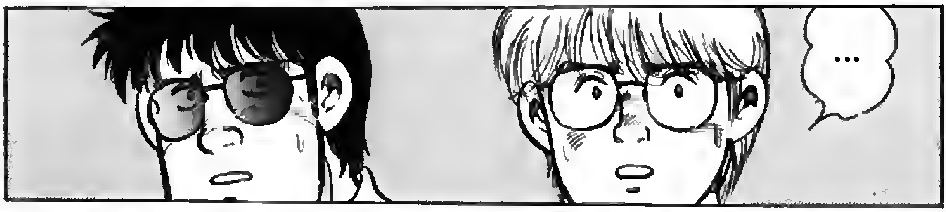

You're pretty serious about this, aren't you?
If you want to keep going, I'll go with you.

If you wanna turn back, then go!


CHIK

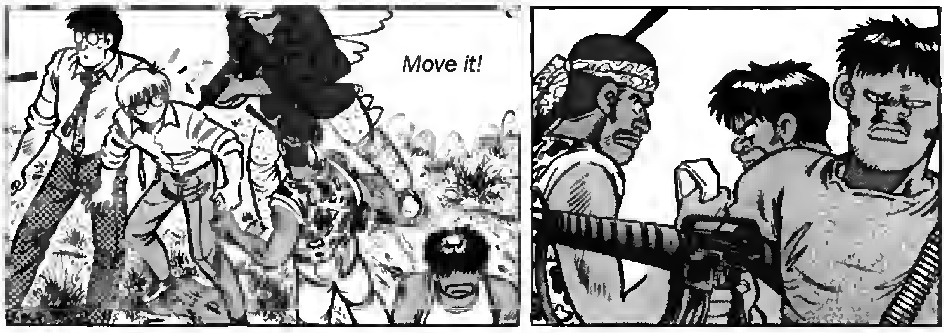
It's like you're searching for a lost love!





Are they thieves?
They want to strip us of everything we have, Shoma...
THUSH

If things go wrong, I might end up inheriting it all...
You're the heir of the great Akagi Group.
Looks like we're out of luck. If they get to our passports, I'd be more worried about you.


Move it!

WHACK
Shut up and come with us!
We'll give you as much money as you want! Just let us go!
We're just travelers! Where are you taking us!?

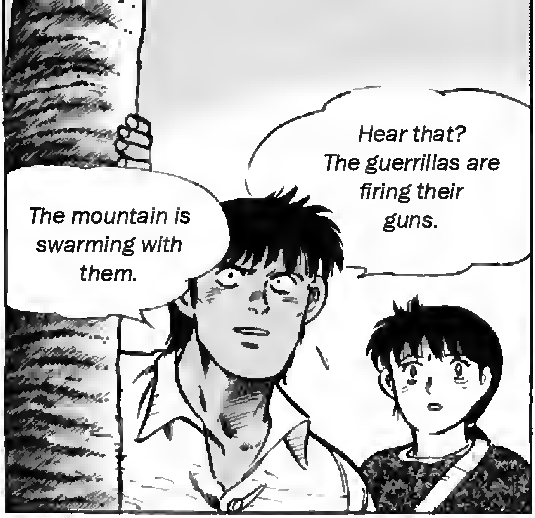
Carlo...
But I'm the only one who can take you there.
Heh...
I'm telling the truth, Yuri. I know where the two old men in the picture are.
They're basically muggers.
There are anti-government guerrillas hiding in the mountains.
I'll tell you, Yuri. In order to find those two men, you have to cross the mountains.

...
Have you made your decision? Sleep with me, Yuri.
As long as you're with me, you can cross the mountains safely.
I know them. But if a Japanese woman were to walk into their territory...
...she would be stripped of all she has, including her life...

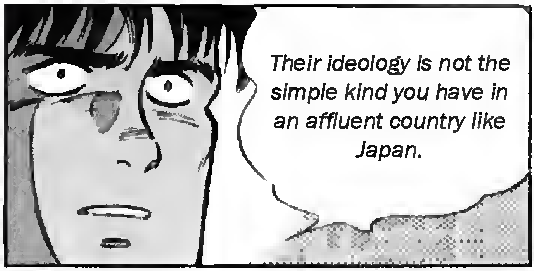
Please, Carlo! Don't say that!
Then give it all up!
Carlo... It's not that I don't like you...
But now is not the time... I'm just not feeling it...

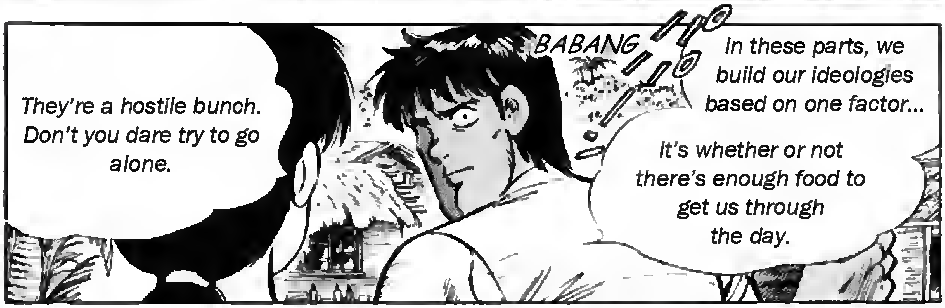
Don't lie to me!
In time, I might come to love you... Then, I could be the one to ask you to...
I want to get to know you. I want to get to know you as a person. We still need to spend more time together...

There's no way that a Japanese woman could truly love a filthy islander like me!
C...Carlo...
That's an easy thing to say!
But on the inside, all you have is disdain for me!
You Japanese are all the same! You look down on the rest of Asia!
You aren't filthy, Carlo! You work hard, you teach the children... You're amazing!
I want to get to know you as a friend...
I don't need your love! I just want your body!
I would never expect you to love me!
That's why I'm willing to make a compromise!
Carlo...

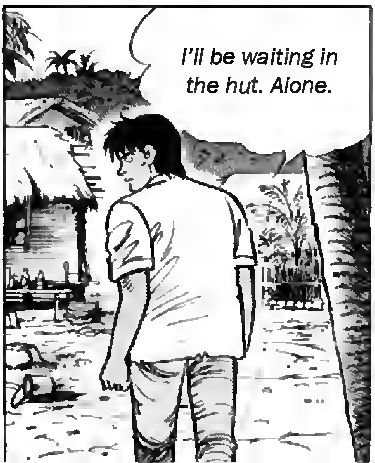

Hear that? The guerrillas are firing their guns.
The mountain is swarming with them.

BABANG
GAT
TAT
TAT
TAT
TAT

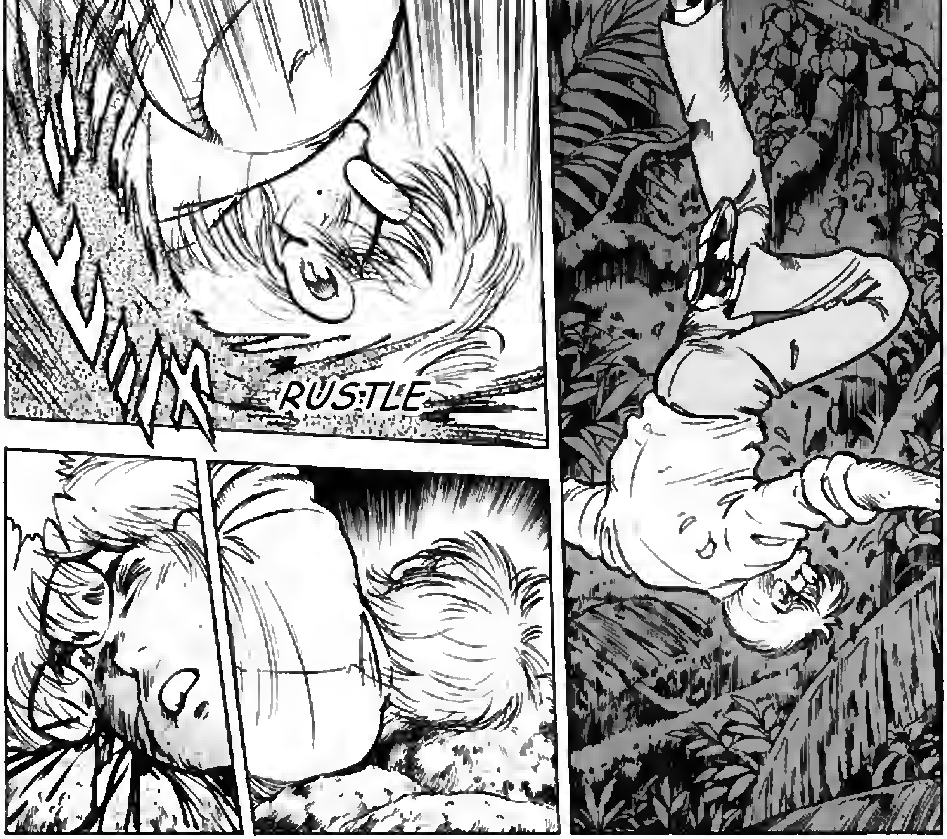

Their ideology is not the simple kind you have in an affluent country like Japan.


They're a hostile bunch. Don't you dare try to go alone.
BABANG
In these parts, we build our ideologies based on one factor...
It's whether or not there's enough food to get us through the day.

...

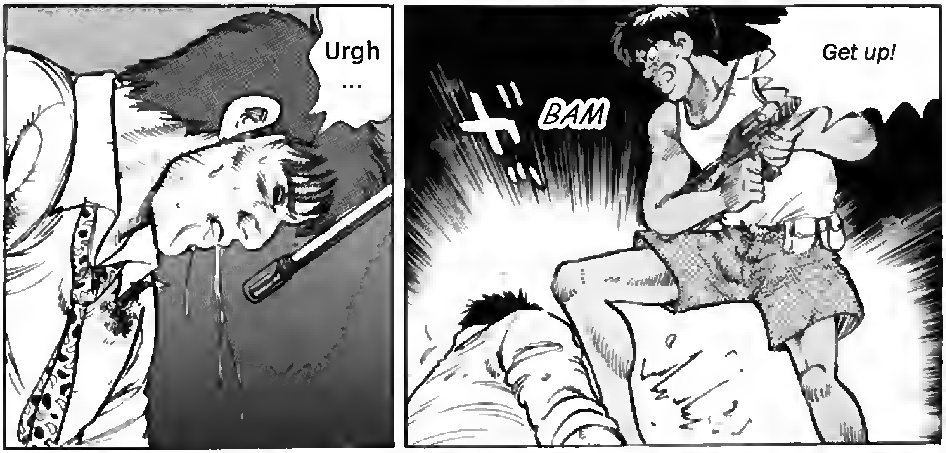

I'll be waiting in the hut. Alone.

GAT TAT
TAT TAT
TAT TAT
This way, Shoma!
BISH
PEW
BISH
BISH
BISH
RA-T-TAT TAT
Run, Shoma! They'll kill you if they catch you!
Shoma ...
KRR-T
THUP THUP

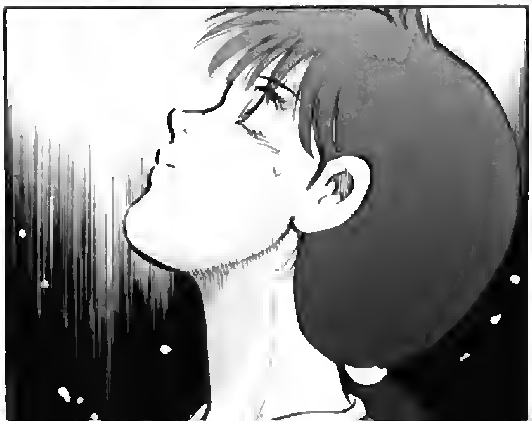

RUSTLE

Sh...
Shoma...

We'll have to do with just the one. Take him!


Urgh ...
BAM
Get up!

Carlo...



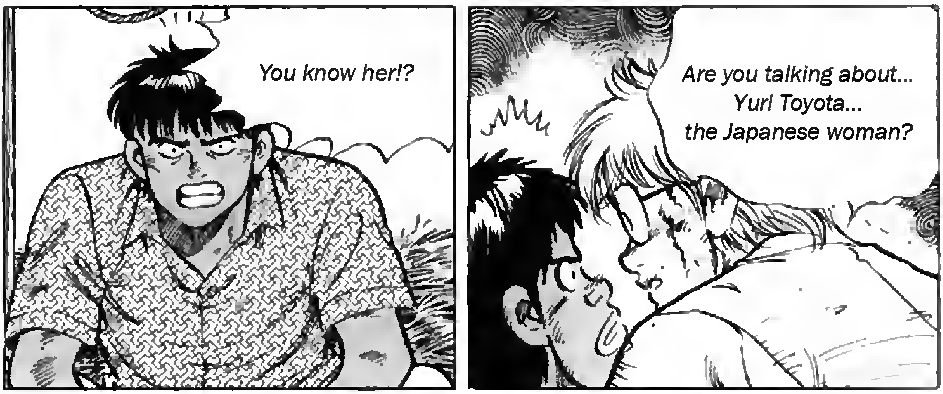
I'd like to retain my respect for you, and so I've decided not to go to your hut tonight.
In time, I hope that...
I really like you and I admire you as a friend.
There have been a lot of misunderstandings between us.
I'm going to wait for dawn, then I'm going to head into the mountains.

Yuri Toyota
...more and more people around the world will find connections with one another...

Carlo!
Quick, Carlo! Another unconscious Japanese person!
I'm going into the mountains.
What's wrong with you, Carlo?
I'm fed up with that crap. Leave him.

Huh!? Yuri went into the mountains by herself!?
Damn it... It's like she's trying to get killed.
BUFF
CLUNK
U — BUFF ——
I don't have any time for that!
What should we do with this guy, Carlo?

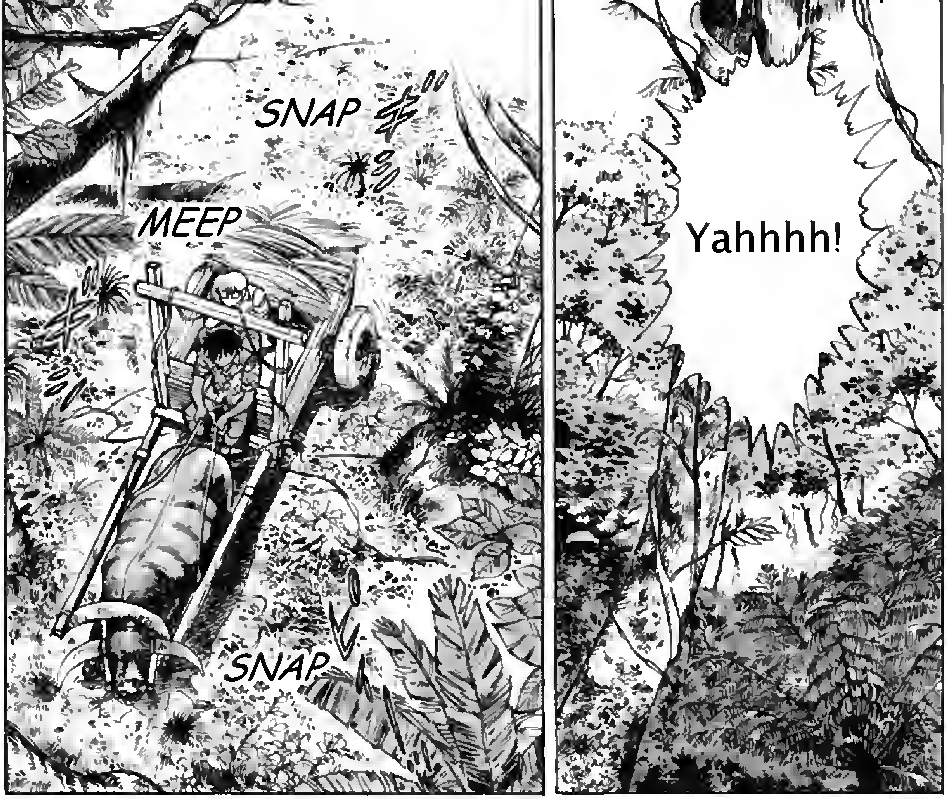
Is she crazy!? The guerrillas are gonna get her!
Yuri!?
Yuri went into the mountains by herself, and Carlo is gonna go after her!
Yu...ri...?
In the mountains, by herself!?


You know her!?
Are you talking about... Yuri Toyota... the Japanese woman?

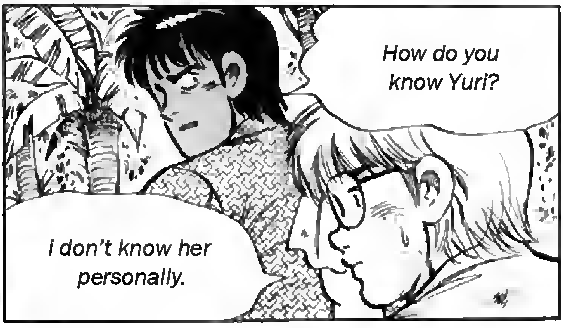
Please... Take me with you!
WOBBLE

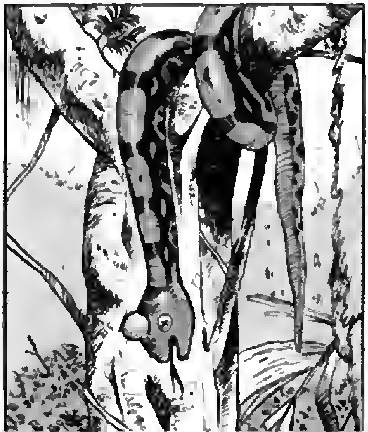
Chapter 11: Into the Mountains

La la laaa la...
"A maiden was walking in the woods..."
"We'll cut the tree..."
"And you'll ..."
La la laaa la...


SNAP
MEEP
SNAP
Yahhhh!

Why did she go into the mountains alone?


How do you know Yuri?
I don't know her personally.



Look! There's a snake hanging from that tree.
...

ZSSHH
Someone must have been through here.
It could be the guerrillas who took your brother...
Or it could be Yuri. We have to hurry!
I'm injured. I can't walk anymore...
Please... Let me rest...
ZSSSHHH
We can't do that. You're worth a lot of money.
Or just hurry up and kill me if that's what you're planning...

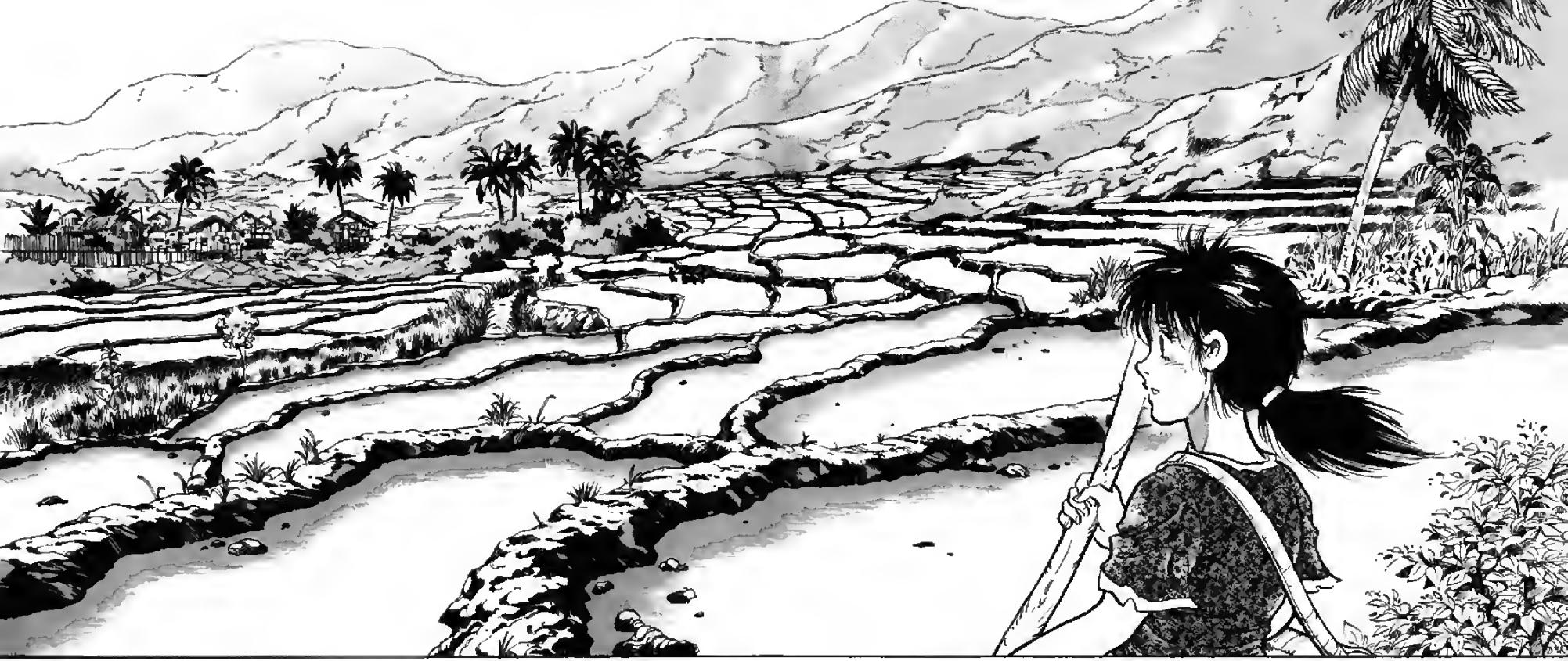
Ugh...
Now don't say that. Looks like the bullet went straight through.
Forget it!
Stay still. I'll have a look at your wounds.
No doctors around here.
I'm bleeding real bad... Don't you have a doctor?
...
All right, get up! We're going!

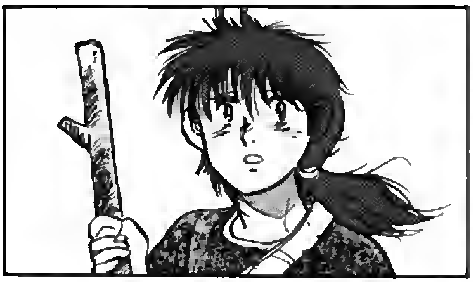
Yuri... Where is she!?
How did she end up in a place like this!?
She's alone in this wretched jungle...
...to find my father? But why!?
Yuri...
You and I... Just the two of us...
Let's go home, Yuri. Let's go back to Japan together, and live together...
What a horrible place...
I've come to a horrible place...
Am I going to die here like this?
What a shame...
Yuri...
I want to see her...
Yuri...

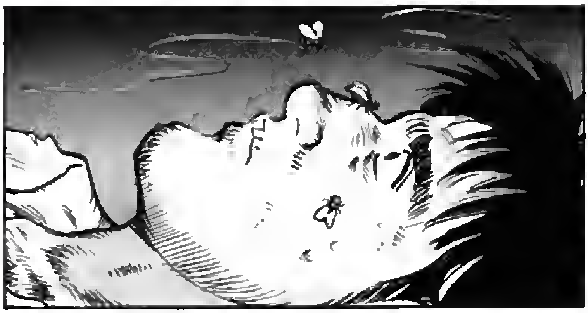
What a horrible place...
I've come to a horrible place...
Am I going to die here like this?
What a shame...
Yuri...
I want to see her...
Yuri...

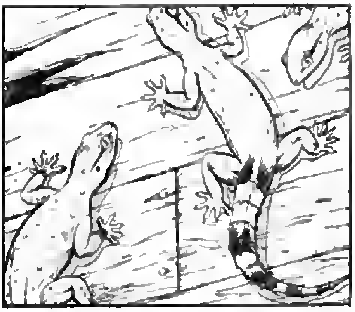
Yuri... Where is she!?
How did she end up in a place like this!?
She's alone in this wretched jungle...
...to find my father? But why!?
Let's go home, Yuri. Let's go back to Japan together, and live together...
You and I... Just the two of us...
Yuri...

SSS
にゅるる…
...
DASH
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
Ow!
THISH







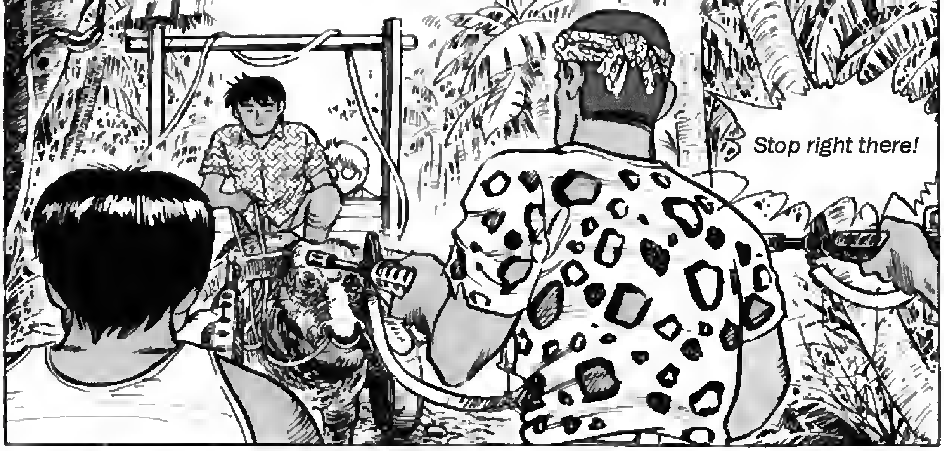


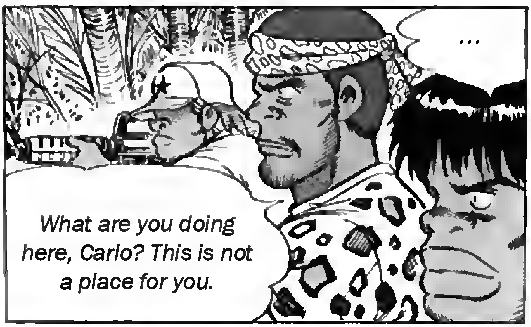
I wonder if she's still alive...

KREE

Am I even...?

Ugh...
SIP


Stop right there!

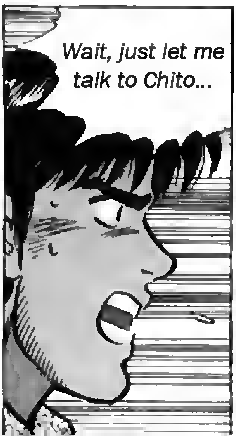

...
What are you doing here, Carlo? This is not a place for you.

It's me, Carlo. Long time.
Where's Chito? He's not here?

Let me talk to Chito!
Go back, or we'll shoot!

It's them, Carlo. They're the ones who attacked us.

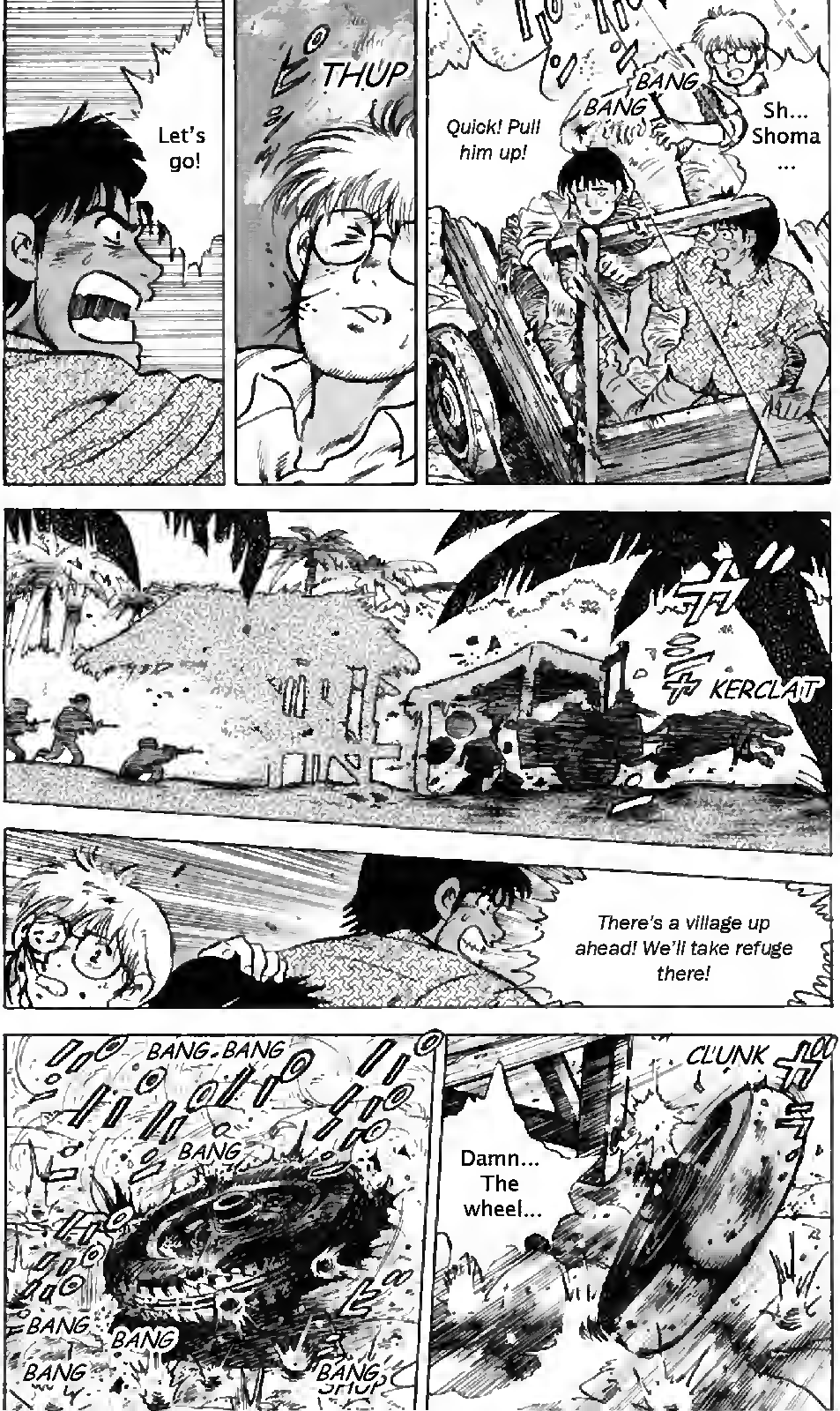
Chito's dead. He was shot by government troops.

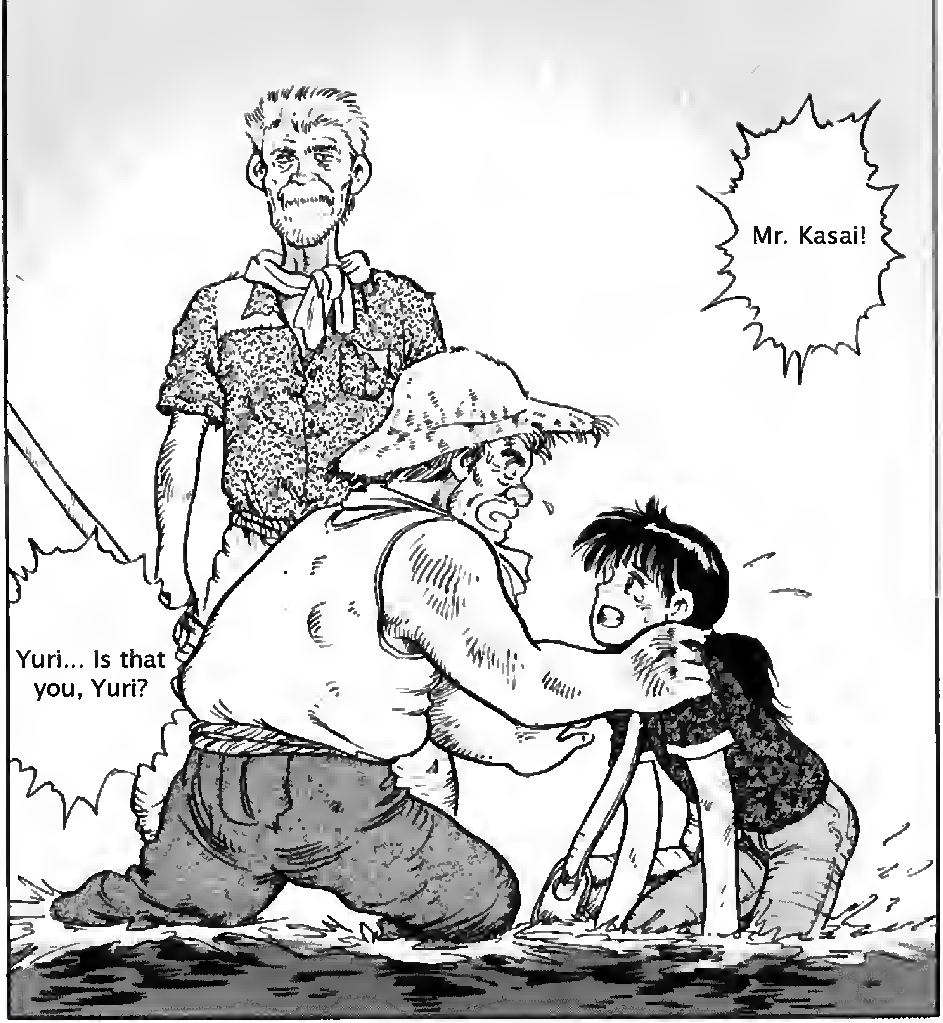

Wait, just let me talk to Chito...

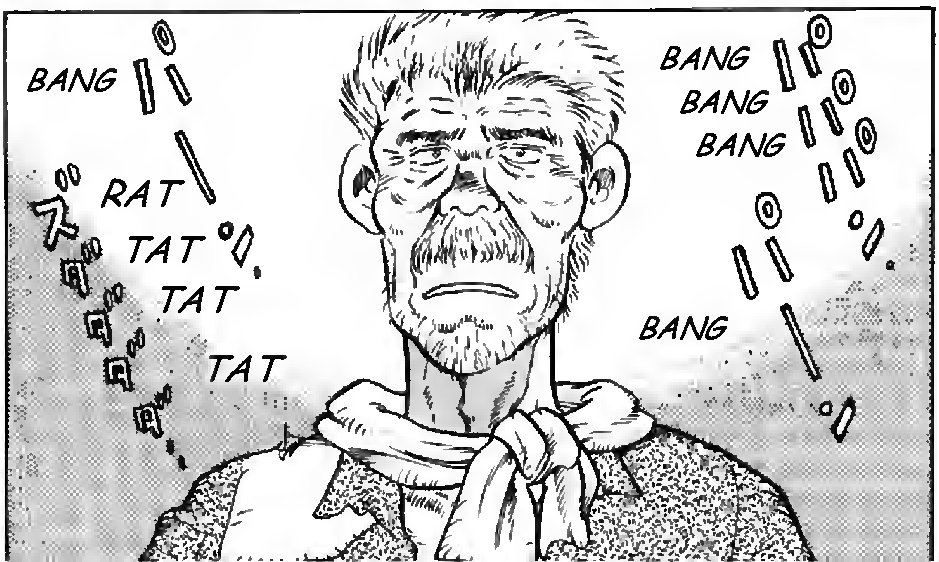
I will count to five. Leave before then.

3
2
...kill the man I was with!? Or is he here...?
4
You're the ones who ambushed me, aren't you!? Did you...
5
MOO
FWAP
Screw this!
All right, we'll leave! Don't shoot!
Get down, Carlo!
What the hell are you...!
GAT-TAT-TAT
DASH

GAT
TA-T
Shoma
...
BANG
BANG
RAT
TAT
TAT
TAT
Ugh...
Yuma...
Yuma
...?
Shoma...
Where are
you,
Shoma!?
Shoma!
Yu...
Yuma...

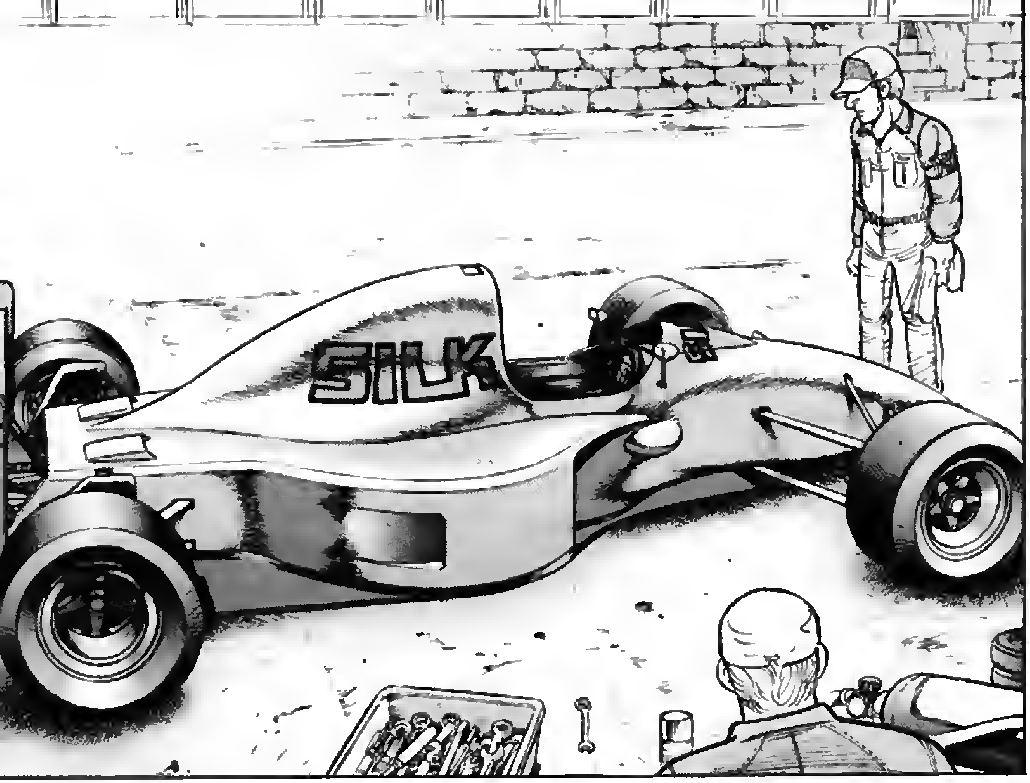

Let's go!
THUP
Quick! Pull him up!
BANG
BANG
Sh... Shoma ...
KERCLAT
There's a village up ahead! We'll take refuge there!
BANG..BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
CLUNK
Damn... The wheel...


Mr. Kasai!
Yuri... Is that you, Yuri?


BANG
RAT
TAT
TAT
TAT
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG

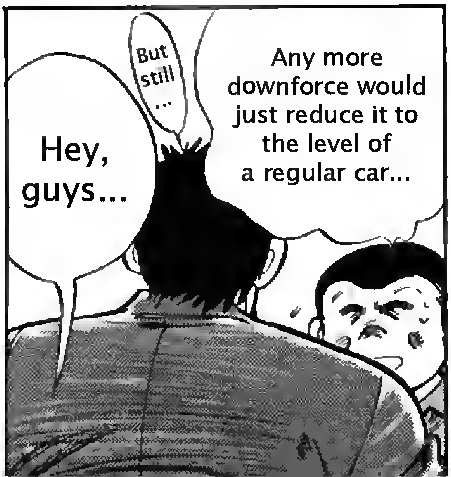
Chapter 12: One Step Closer

olivetti
Shell
1991
SILVERSTONE


SILK

I tin-kered it a little ...
Well...

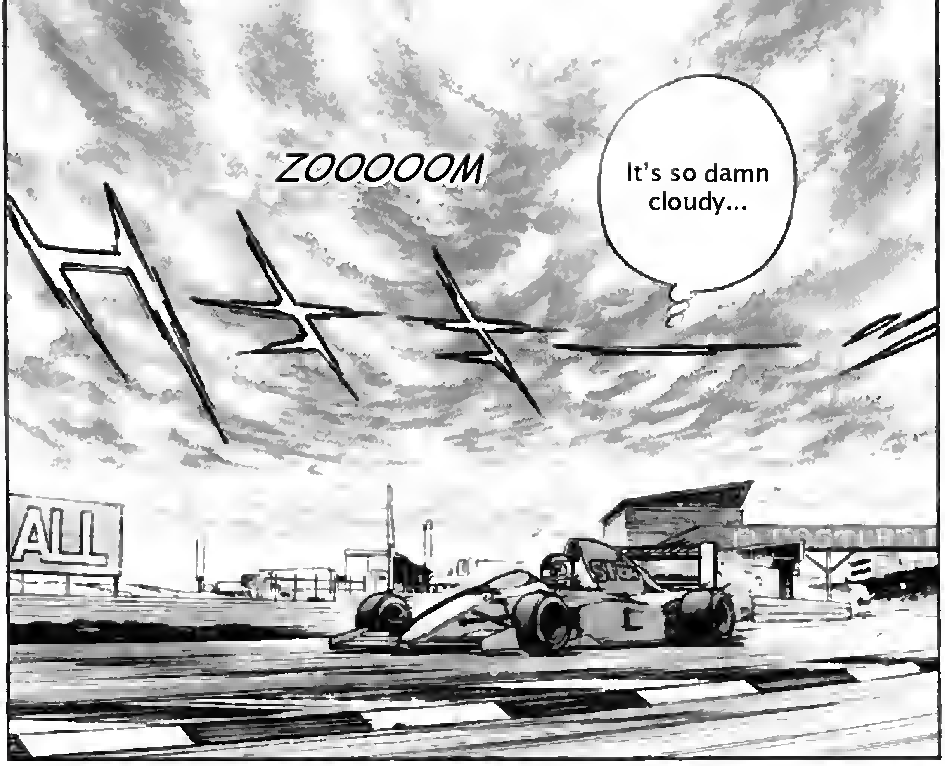
Because if it's the same as when I rode it, Gunma's a goner.
How is it, Tamotsu? I hope you made that thing a little easier to control.

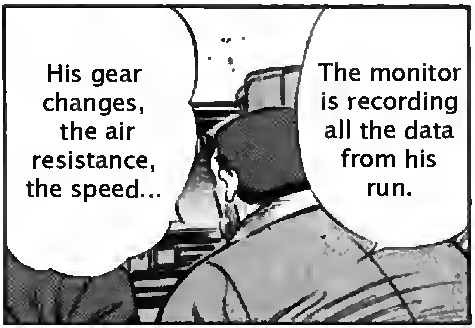

Hey, guys...
But still ...
Any more downforce would just reduce it to the level of a regular car...

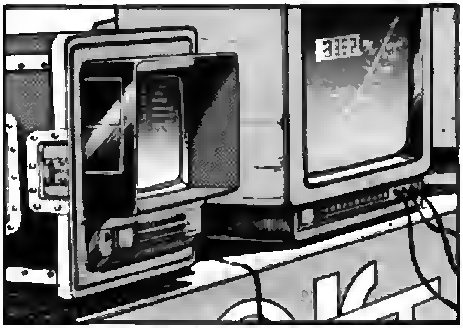
But...
A little is not enough!
A little ...!?

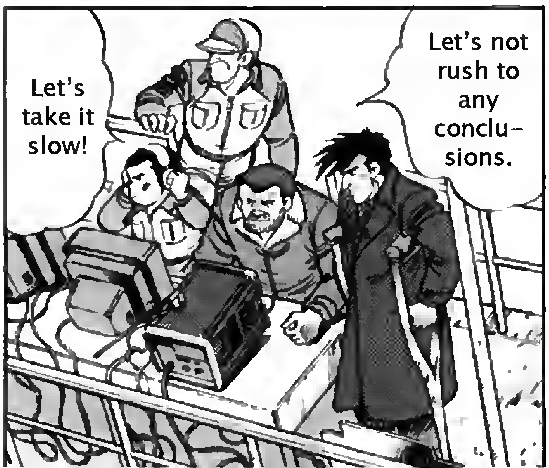
G... Gunma!
I'm goin' for a ride!
Enough chit-chat, already.
You and I, our technique ain't the same. Technique, you hear?
Be careful! Take it slow, and get used to the feel, or else you'll end up like I did!
Nah, I got it just fine!
You don't get it!
I dunno what you learned back in the day, but I'm the only active racer around here! You ain't on my level!
...
Just watch and see.
It's all right! Say what you will, but Tamotsu's fixed the car up so it's a lot safer than when you drove it.
You don't get it, dammit...

She doesn't want Gunma to find out...
No. It's the morning sickness. She said she's staying home.
She's not here today?
Where's Junko?
VROOOM
...that she's pregnant.
Yeah, yeah.
GUNMA
Drive carefully, Gunma!
ZOOOOOM

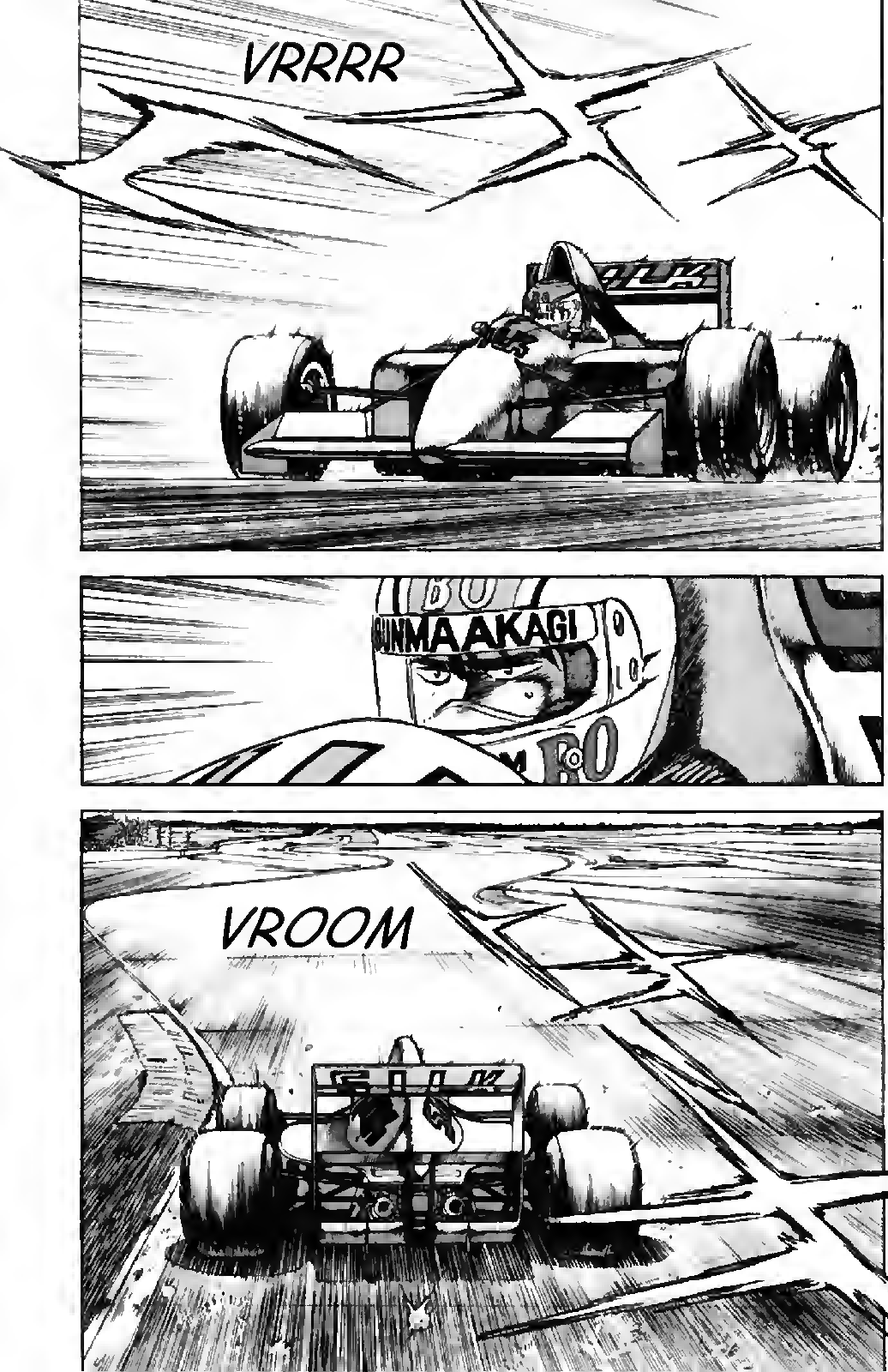

ZOOOOOM
It's so damn cloudy...
ALL

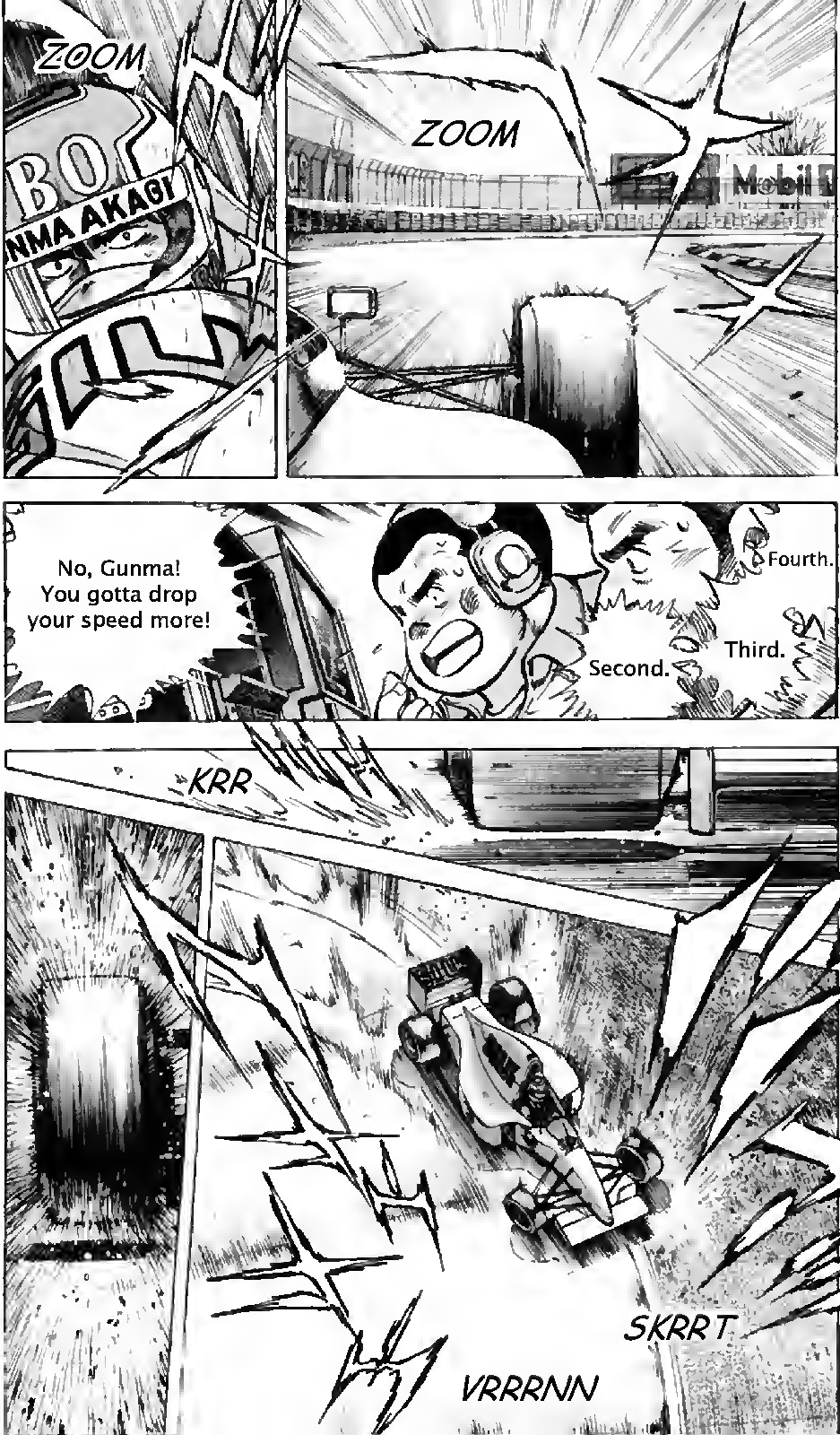

His gear changes, the air resistance, the speed...
The monitor is recording all the data from his run.




Let's take it slow!
Let's not rush to any conclu-sions.

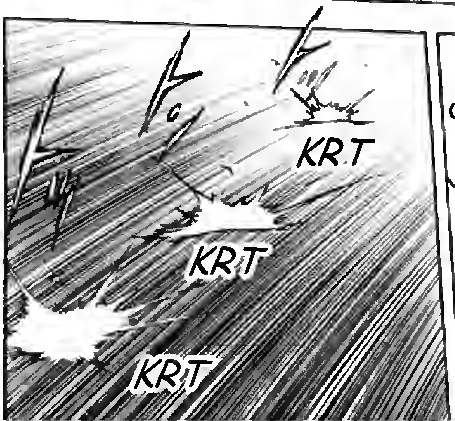
He understands that mastering this car puts him one step closer to realizing his dream.
He's not an idiot.

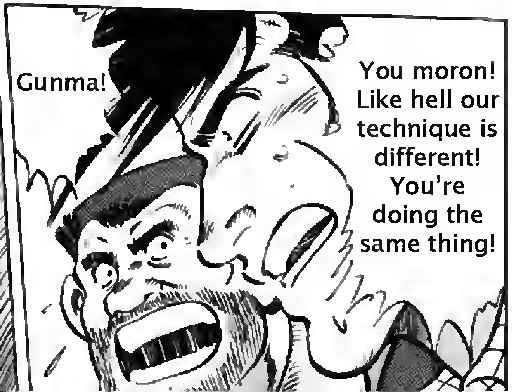

VRRRR
SUNMAAKAGI
VROOM

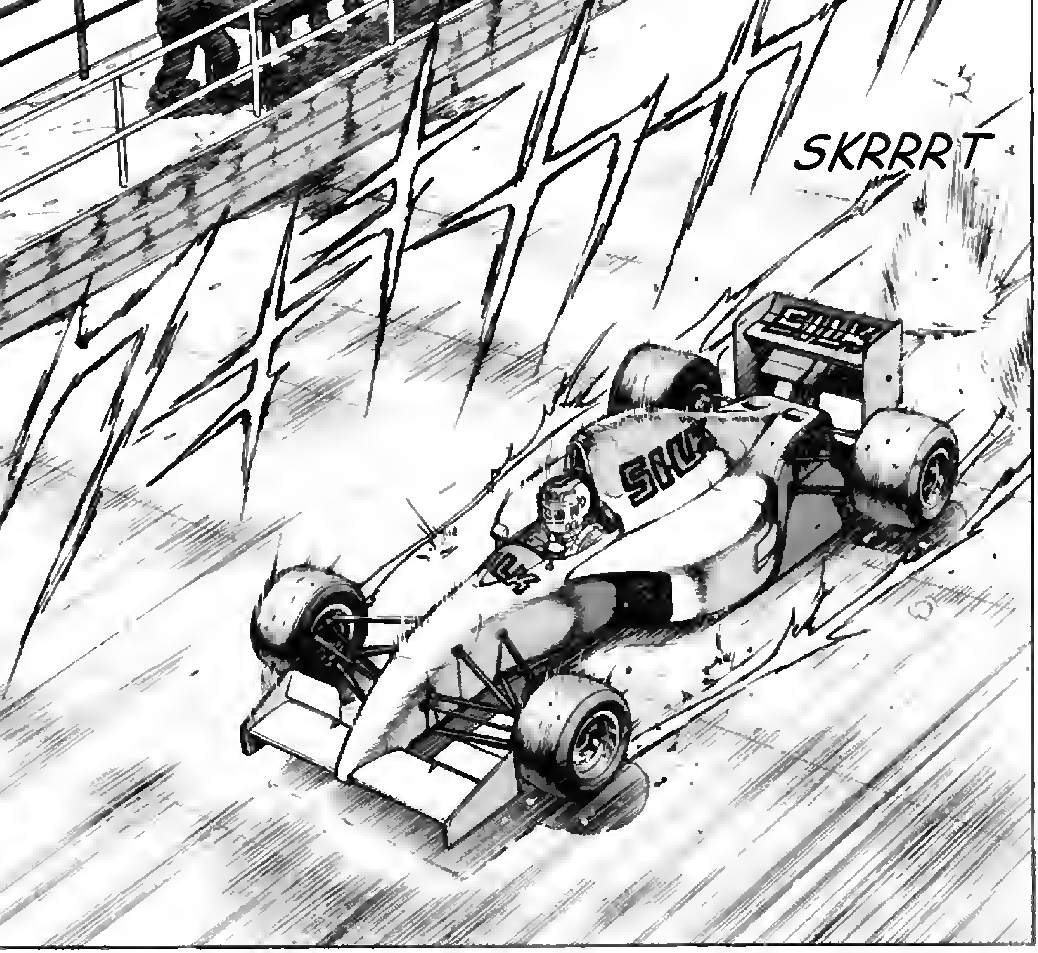

ZOOM
ZOOM
NMA AKAGI
No, Gunma!
You gotta drop
your speed more!
Fourth.
Third.
Second.
KRR
SKRRT
VRRRNN

THRKRR
It's like I'm driving on ice!
Man, it's true...
With such little grip, I can't just jump into the corners like I used to! That would be suicide!
I can handle the straights. It doesn't even feel like I'm touching the ground...
VROOH
Oh, man!
But it's so fast...

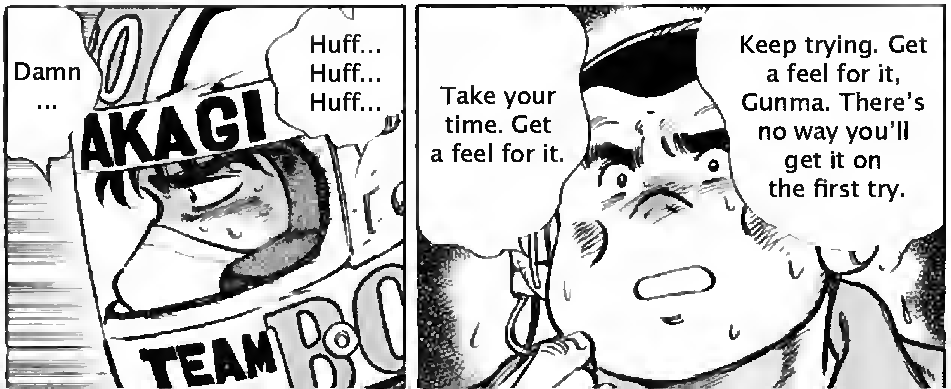
SWOOSH
510
KRT

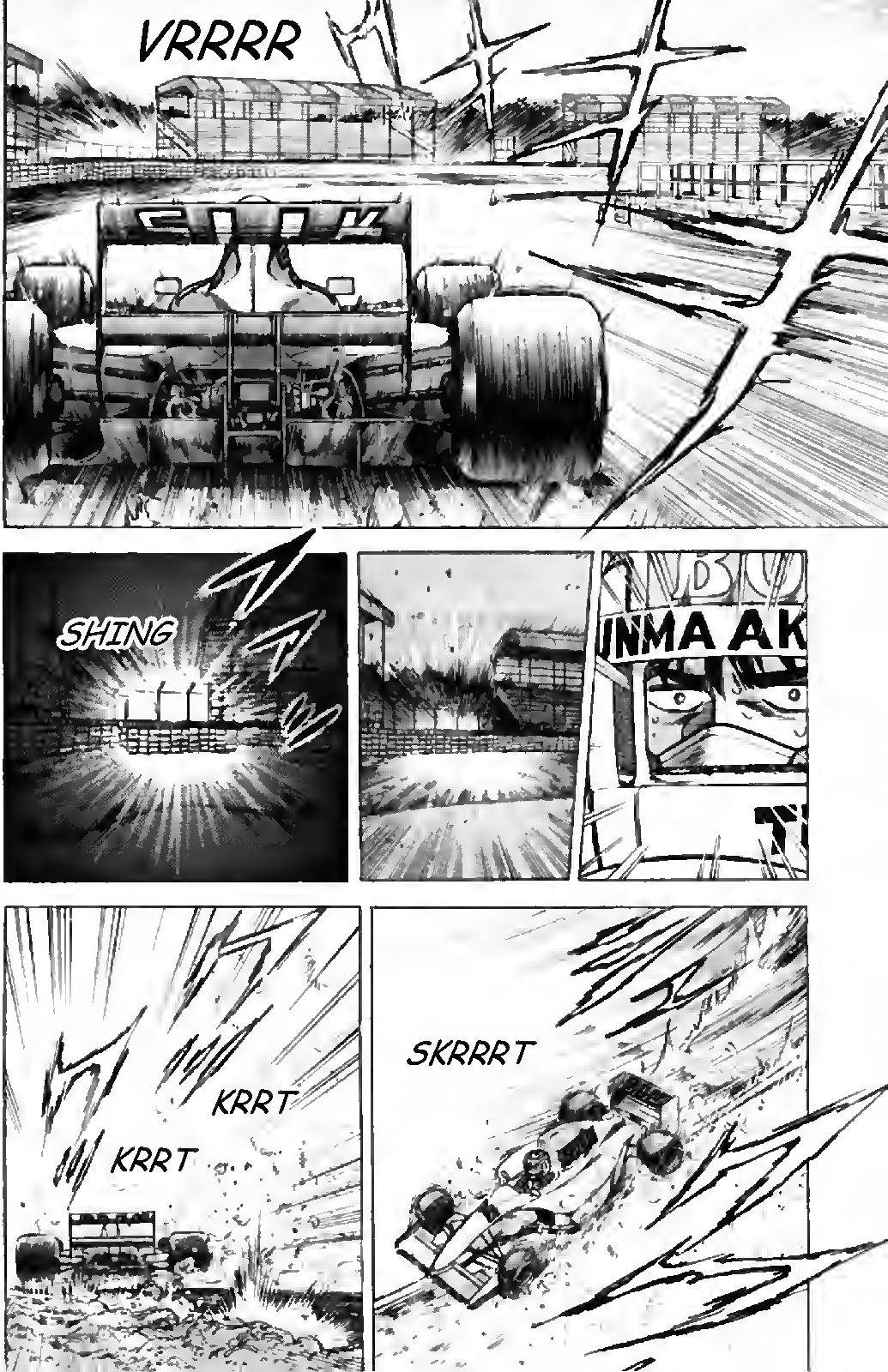

KRT
KRT
KRT

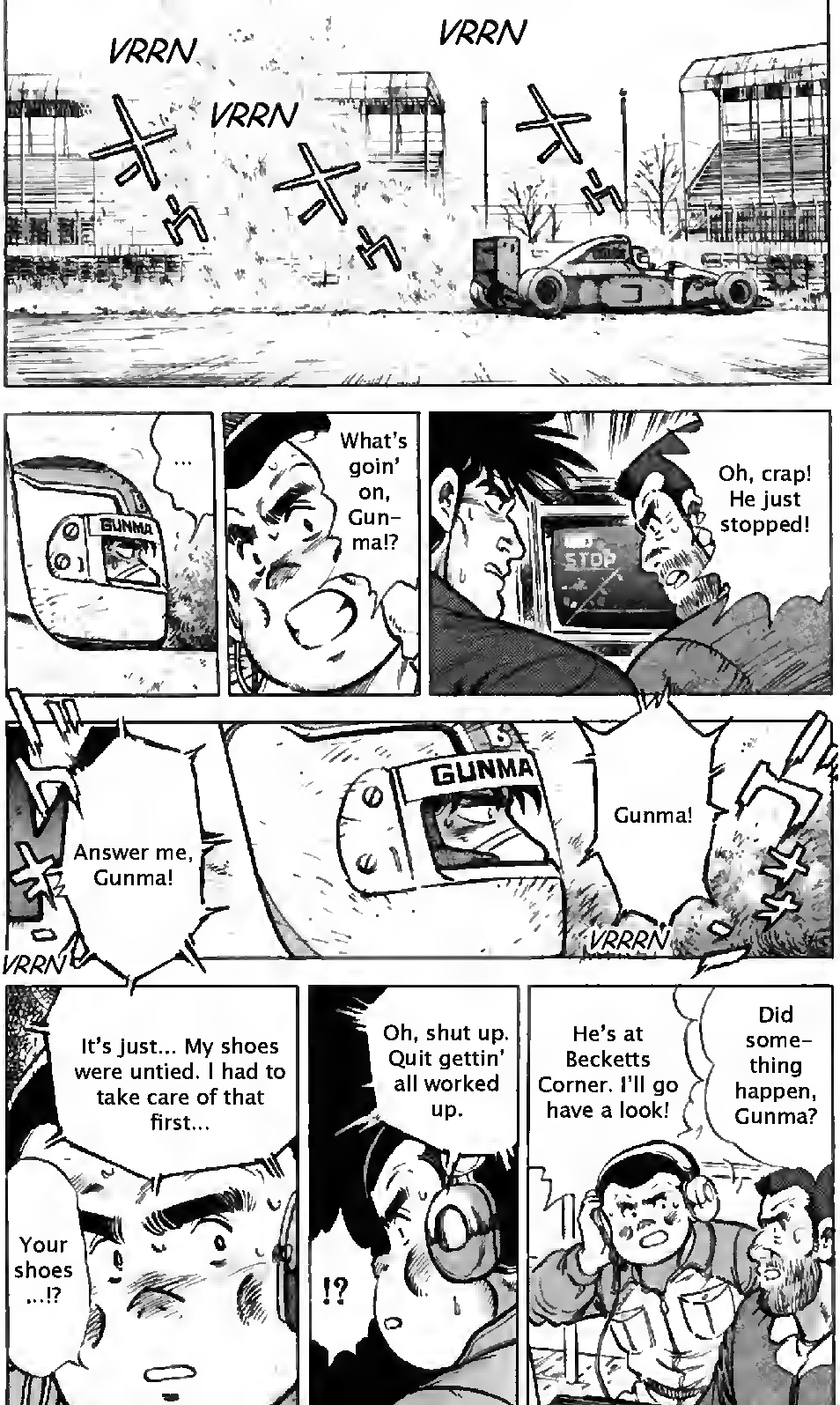

Gunma!
You moron! Like hell our technique is different! You're doing the same thing!


SKRRRT

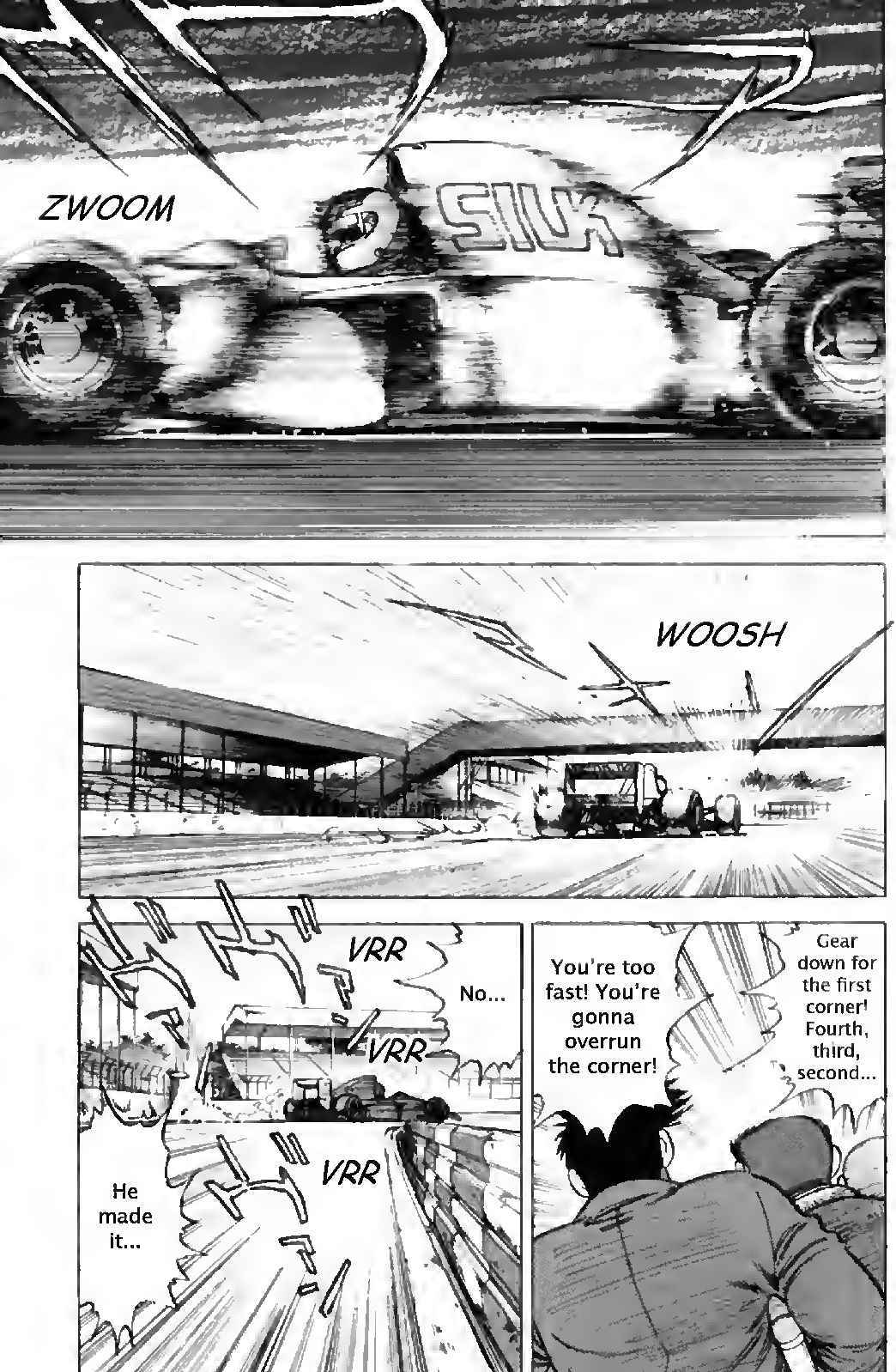
I guess it's not quite ready to use in a real race just yet...
Man, that was a close one. Looks like he managed to regain his balance, though.


Damn ...
Huff... Huff... Huff...
AKAGI
TEAM
Take your time. Get a feel for it.
Keep trying. Get a feel for it, Gunma. There's no way you'll get it on the first try.

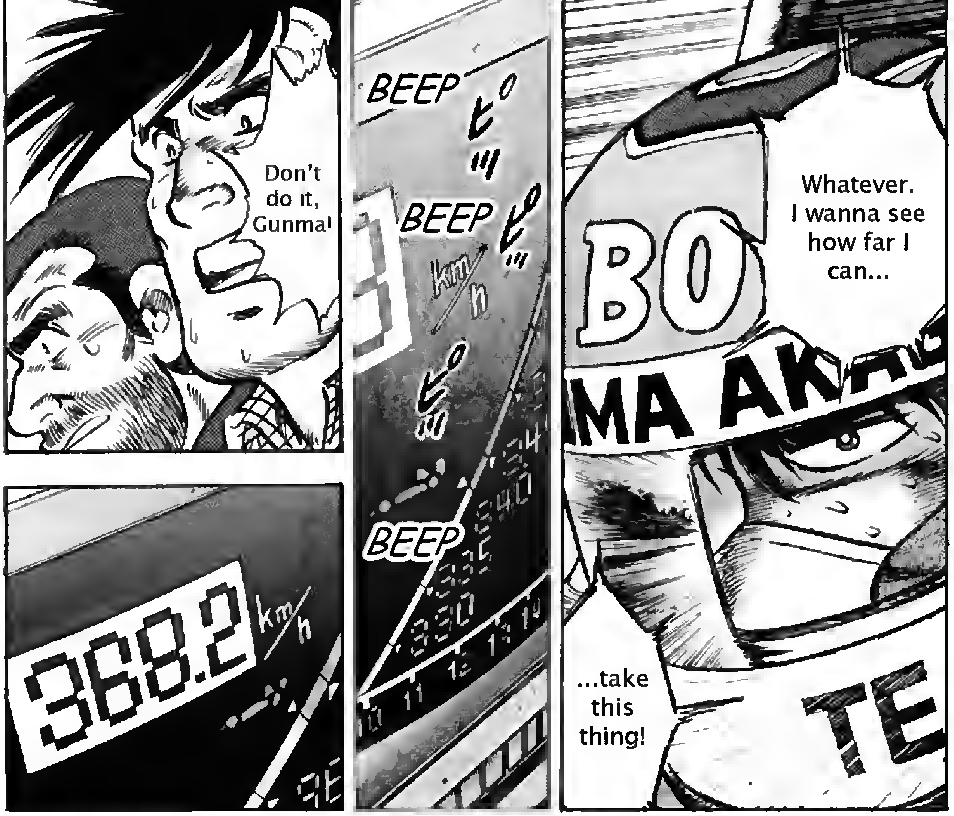

VRRRR
SHING
INMA AK
KRRT
KRRT
SKRRRT

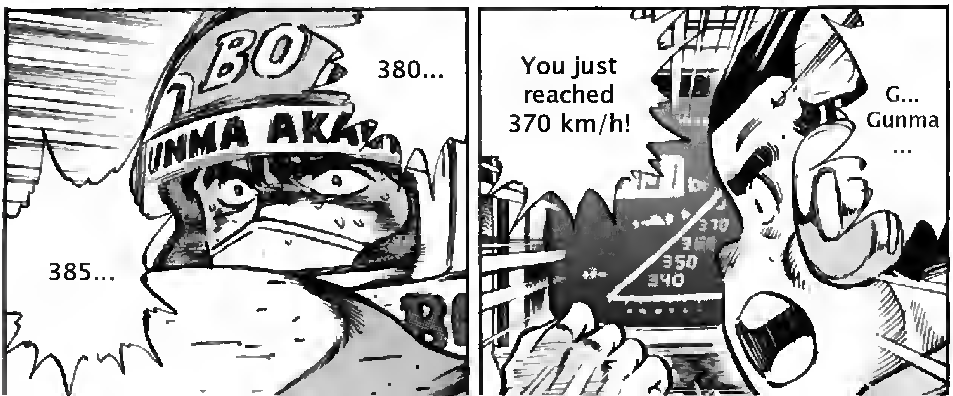

VRRN
VRRN
VRRN
GUNMA
...
What's goin' on, Gun-ma!?
STOP
Oh, crap! He just stopped!
GUNMA
Answer me, Gunma!
Gunma!
VRRN
VRRN
It's just... My shoes were untied. I had to take care of that first...
Your shoes ...!?
Oh, shut up. Quit gettin' all worked up.
!?
He's at Becketts Corner. I'll go have a look!
Did some-thing happen, Gunma?

What? There's no way your shoelaces could come loose just like that!
GUNMA
VRRN
I bet he's just trying to catch his breath.
GUNMA
BREEHM
All right...
Here I go...
Here he comes ...
Looks like we got a car that's crazy enough to even freak Gunma out!


ZWOOM
SILK
WOOSH
VRR
No...
VRR
VRR
He made it...
You're too fast! You're gonna overrun the corner!
Gear down for the first corner! Fourth, third, second...

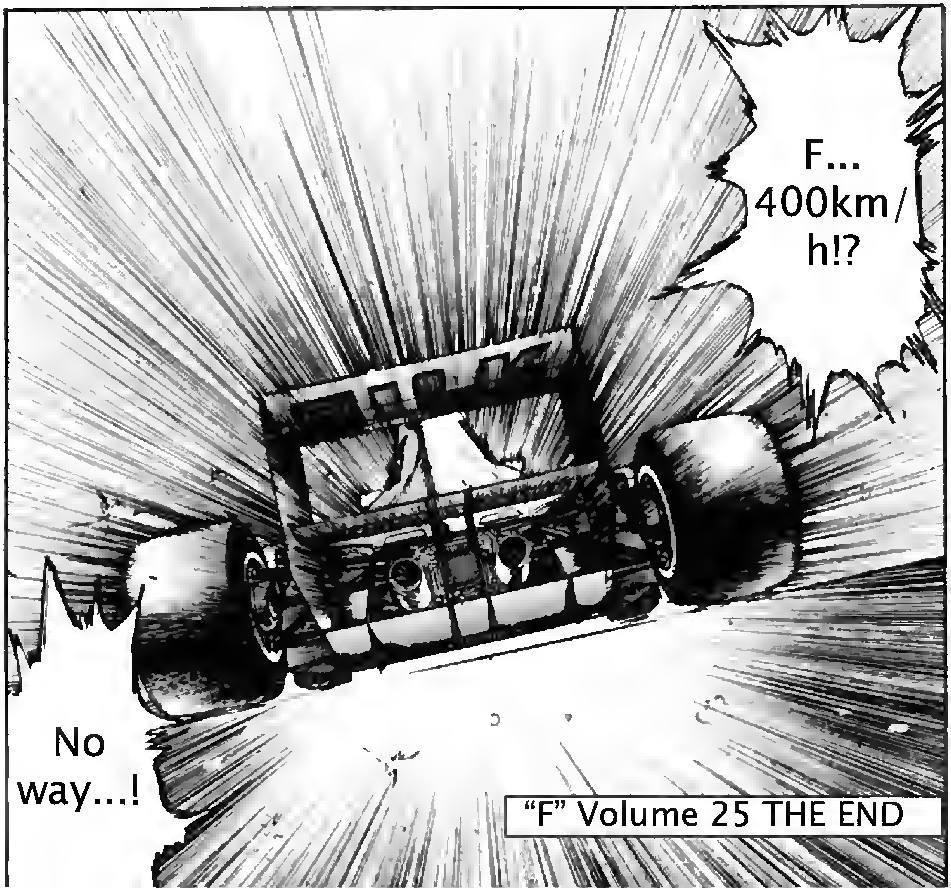
I'm gonna go full speed...
!?
All right ...
You have to get used to the car first!
Gunma!
Don't be stupid! It's too early for that!
252.9
km/h
BEEP BEEP
The air is letting go of you!
No, Gunma! The air is not your friend!
It won't get in your way, but it won't help you out either!
ZOOOM
...my worst enemy suddenly became my best friend...
It's like ...
The sound of me cutting through the air...
What a weird sensa-tion. The sound...


Don't do it, Gunma!
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
Whatever. I wanna see how far I can...
...take this thing!
368.2 km/h


380...
385...
You just reached 370 km/h!
G... Gunma ...

392...!

Whoooaaa!
Wh...


F...
400km/
h!?
No
way...!
"F" Volume 25 THE END

F VOL.25

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